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Page 13



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Page 14

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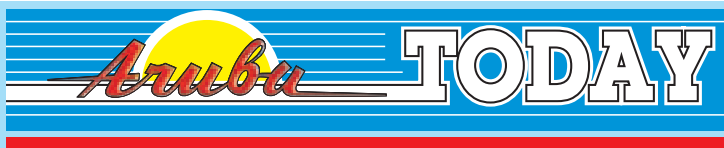
On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Saturday, November 15, 2014

G-20 MEETS DOWN UNDER

Global Summit Opens in Sweltering Australia

Page 2

British Prime Minister David Cameron, left, walks along the Roll of Honour in the cloisters at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, with Australian Minister for Defense David Johnston following, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014. Cameron is visiting Australia to attend the G20 weekend summit.
(AP Photo/Rick Rycroft, Pool)



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G-20 Summit Opens in Australia

KRISTEN GELINEAU

Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)

— As G-20 summit host Brisbane sweltered through a blistering heat wave, world leaders on Saturday got down to the business of cementing plans to drag a sagging global economy out of the doldrums.

The leaders of the world's 20 largest economies are under pressure to take definitive action at this year's summit, rather than simply producing a set of vague, unmeasurable goals. The International Monetary Fund has warned about a "new

progress on a previously-announced plan of lifting the global GDP by 2 percent above predicted levels over the next five years. Each country is expected to present a comprehensive plan at the summit on how they will achieve that goal — but whether the communique will reveal any of those details is unclear.

Rights groups, meanwhile, are concerned that the country's growth plans will focus on tough austerity measures, such as axing unemployment benefits, to hit the target, rather than proposing initiatives

each G-20 country."

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said reducing inequality is a concern in nearly every developing country he has visited. Still, he suspects next year's G-20 host, Turkey, would focus more heavily on developing country issues. Meanwhile, the thousands of delegates and media that have descended upon the capital of Queensland — aptly dubbed the "Sunshine State" — have been greeted by a crushing heat wave, with temperatures expected to reach 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit). Some of



British Prime Minister David Cameron, left, walks with Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott as they leave the house of representatives at Parliament House in Canberra, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014. Cameron is visiting Australia to attend the G20 summit.

(AP Photo/Mark Graham, Pool)

mediocre" for the world's economy, and the G-20 — which represents around 85 percent of the global economy — has vowed to focus on a plan to add \$2 trillion to world GDP.

U.S. President Barack Obama touched down in Brisbane early Saturday to join the other leaders, with talks scheduled to begin in the afternoon.

The summit will conclude on Sunday with the release of an official communique, a rundown of what the countries have achieved and want to achieve in the future. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has repeatedly stressed that the main focus of the gathering is to show

that would invest money in health, education and job growth.

The Civil Society 20 group, or C20, wants assurances that the poor will benefit the most from the plans, estimating that the additional growth could lift 1 billion people out of poverty if it was poured into the poorest 20 percent of G-20 households.

"We know there's a whole lot of pressure just to produce a two-page communique," C20 chair Tim Costello said. "What we really need to know is the country by country plans and are they passing the sustainable test — the test of benefiting the bottom 20 percent of households in

the sweat-stained police officers blanketing the city by the thousands have taken to dumping bottles of water on themselves to cope with the blazing sun. More than two dozen protests have been planned to coincide with the event, on everything from inequality to corporate tax evasion to Aboriginal rights.

European leaders will discuss the escalating conflict between Russia and Ukraine when they meet President Barack Obama on the sidelines of an Australian summit on Sunday ahead of a European Union decision on possible further sanctions against Moscow.□

Russia says to G20: We're here, and our warships are here too.

KRISTEN GELINEAU

Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia (AP)

— Vladimir Putin is underlining his presence at a major summit of world leaders in Australia by stationing warships in waters off the country's northeastern coast, prompting the Australian prime minister to angrily accuse Russia of trying to reclaim the "lost glories" of the Soviet Union. The diplomatic drama, which has been simmering since a Malaysia Airlines plane was shot down over an area of Ukraine controlled by Russian-backed separatists in July, threatened to overshadow Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's goal of keeping this weekend's G-20 summit focused on economic growth.

But Abbott, who had previously said he would physically confront the Russian president over the Flight 17 disaster that killed 298 people, including 38 Australian citizens and residents, did little to dampen tensions with his latest critique of Putin's Russia.

In recent days, four Russian warships have entered international waters off the northeast Australian coast to coincide with Putin's visit to Australia for the summit that brings together the leaders of the world's 20 biggest industrialized and developing economies. Australia, in turn, sent three warships of its own to monitor them.

The Russian embassy said on Friday that Russia's Pacific fleet was testing its range, and could be used as security for Putin.

Abbott was not impressed.

"Russia is being much more assertive now than it has been for a very long time," he said at a press conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron, also in Australia for the summit. "Interestingly, Russia's economy is declining even as Russia's assertiveness is increasing."

The prime minister, who met with Putin earlier this week on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Beijing, aired details of his conversation with the Russian leader.

"One of the points that I tried to make to President Putin is that Russia would be so much more attractive if it was aspiring to be a superpower for peace and freedom and prosperity ... instead of trying to recreate the lost glories of tsarism or the old Soviet Union."

Abbott, an athletic 56-year-old former amateur boxer whose government is a staunch U.S. ally, has gained a higher international profile by loudly demanding more cooperation from Russia on the Dutch-led investigation into the downing of Flight 17.

He raised eyebrows last month when he declared he intended to "shirtfront" Putin, using an Australian football term for a head-on shoulder charge to an opponent's chest.

Cameron also took a swipe at Russia, warning that Western sanctions against the country could increase if it continues to foster the rebellion in eastern Ukraine. Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel downplayed the appearance of Russia's ships.

"I find it much more serious that there are violations of Ukraine's territorial integrity," Merkel said during a press conference in Auckland, New Zealand, which she is visiting en route to the G-20.

Putin was expected to arrive in Australia for the summit in the eastern city of Brisbane on Friday.

Abbott has pushed to keep the G-20's agenda firmly focused on a plan to add \$2 trillion to global GDP over five years, with countries expected to present reports on how they will achieve that goal this weekend.□



Obama gets glimpse of life as lame duck abroad

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — President Barack Obama is getting his first glimpse of life as a lame-duck president traveling overseas. And so far, he has reason to like what he sees.

Obama arrived in the Asia-Pacific region weakened by a cascade of crises that have put him on the defensive for much of this year, and politically damaged by Democrats' thrashing in last week's midterm elections. But during stops in China and Myanmar, there were few overt signs that Obama's troubles at home had followed him abroad. Instead, Obama secured unexpected agreements with China on climate change, military cooperation and trade. And in Myanmar on Friday, Obama received a full-throated endorsement of his commitment to the country's democratization from revered opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and was enthusiastically greeted by young people at a town hall in the bustling commercial capital of Yangon.

"You're always popular in somebody else's country," the president told the cheering youth. "When you're in your own country, everybody is complaining."



In this photo released by G20 Australia, U.S. President Barack Obama waves as he arrives at Royal Australian Air Force Base Amberley near Brisbane, Australia, Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014. President Obama is in Australia to attend the G-20 summit in Brisbane.

(AP Photo/G20 Australia, Patrick Hamilton)

For a beleaguered White House, the trip has been a welcome relief from criticism and crisis in Washington, as well as a reminder of the opportunities that could still exist in the president's final two years in office.

In turning overseas so quickly after the midterms, Obama is following a path well-trodden by his predecessors. For second term presidents who, like Obama, find themselves with diminished political and popular appeal, the world stage can look like a welcoming place.

To be sure, Obama has signaled in the week and a half since the midterm elections that he doesn't intend to just quietly jet off to overseas capitals and immerse himself in foreign affairs. He has jumped into the fray over net neutrality by unveiling his plan for a "free and open" Internet. White House officials are putting final touches on a package of immigration executive orders that have Republicans outraged. And Obama is holding his ground in the fight over the Keystone XL oil pipeline and appears to be ready-

ing for a veto of congressional legislation that seeks to force construction of the project.

Still, Obama this week has clearly relished being able to focus on one of his foreign policy priorities: an expansion of U.S. engagement in the Asia-Pacific region, which he hopes becomes a central part of his legacy. While Obama has often been criticized for letting his so-called pivot to Asia languish amid more urgent matters, his trip this week has suggested he still could breathe new life into that effort.

Obama's stop in China proved to be surprisingly fruitful. He and President Xi Jinping unveiled an ambitious joint plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, an agreement that was the product of months of secret negotiations between Washington and Beijing. The two leaders also announced deals to increase military cooperation and extend the lengths of visas given to each other's citizens.

In Myanmar, which is also known as Burma, leaders repeatedly thanked Obama for being a willing partner as the country emerges from a half-century of military rule. And Suu Kyi, the country's democracy icon, quickly put to rest rumors of a rift with Obama, her fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate.

"We may view things differently from time to time but that will in no way affect our relationship," said Suu Kyi, who warmly embraced Obama during their joint news conference.

Still, Obama's ability to focus on the reset with Asia also laid bare the unevenness of that effort six years into his presidency. Even as Obama and Xi highlighted areas of agreement, there was little progress on the drivers of tension between their nations, including human rights, cybersecurity. □

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Clinton political network gathers amid 2016 talk

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (AP) — Former President Bill Clinton's political family reunited Arkansas Friday, reminiscing about his two terms in office and relishing the prospect of a first for his wife.

What the future might mean for the couple depends heavily on Hillary Rodham Clinton's decision on whether to attempt for a second time to run for president in 2016. If she does, the other question is to which the degree the former secretary of state would defend or distance herself from President Barack Obama and her husband's terms in office. Even as the Clinton allies streamed to Little Rock, Ar-

kansas, the former first couple took a touch of friendly fire from Vice President Joe Biden, a potential Clinton presidential rival, on her

husband's record of creating jobs during the 1990s.

The Clintons often speak of having created 23 million jobs and cutting the pover-

ty rate during Mr. Clinton's presidency. But in a speech Thursday, Biden highlighted that how that period is remembered will be important to Mrs. Clinton's ambitions.

The "middle class started to get into trouble in the late '80s," Biden said. "All through the '90s ... the middle class was declining except the last two years."

Republicans, still giddy about their midterm election triumph that handed them complete control of Congress, are busily preparing for 2016.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul assembled his political team at a Washington hotel this week for strategy sessions while former President George W. Bush has encouraged his brother, former Gov. Jeb Bush, to run. Govs. Chris Christie of New Jersey, Scott Walker of Wisconsin and Bobby

Jindal of Louisiana will head to Florida next week for an annual Republican Governors Association meeting replete with presidential overtones.

The activity signaled that while the Clintonites insisted on an upbeat focus on Mr. Clinton's presidential stewardship two decades ago, the 2016 presidential race has effectively begun.

Even in the Clintons' orbit, unnamed former campaign operatives were reportedly trying to shape Mrs. Clinton's 2016 campaign staff even before she has any such campaign. ABC News reported Friday that a Democrat on a private distribution list of ex-campaign staffers leaked bravado email exchanges between two former operatives the source does not support for senior roles in a potential Clinton campaign. □



President Bill Clinton speaks during a Democratic rally at the downtown United States Post Office in Arkansas. Clinton's political family reunited Arkansas Friday, reminiscing about his two terms in office and relishing the prospect of a first for his wife.

(AP Photo/Curt Youngblood)

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House sends bill approving Keystone pipeline to Senate

DINA CAPIELLO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican-controlled House passed legislation Friday approving the Keystone XL oil pipeline, setting the stage for a Senate showdown that mixes energy politics with a fight over Louisiana's Senate seat. The vote was 252-161 in favor of the bill.

The legislation got new life after Senate Democrats suddenly abandoned efforts to block the measure in hopes of winning the last unresolved Senate race from the midterm elections. Senate passage of the bill as early as next Tuesday would force President Barack Obama to either sign it into law or veto the

measure just weeks after devastating Democratic losses in the Nov. 4 elections. Obama has delayed a decision on the pipeline, which environmentalists maintain would have a negative impact and contribute to climate change. The Obama administration's delays have caused friction between the U.S. and Canada, which needs infrastructure in place to export its growing oil sands production.

Republicans and several moderate Democrats argue that construction of the pipeline would create tens of thousands of jobs. The bill marks the ninth attempt by the House to approve the pipeline. □

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Suspect in US student kidnapping pleads not guilty

MATTHEW BARAKAT

Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Virginia (AP) —

The man accused of abducting a British-born University of Virginia student who was found dead last month pleaded not guilty Friday on an unrelated sexual assault charge.

Jesse Matthew, 32, made his first in-person court appearance in Fairfax, Virginia, on Friday morning. He's charged there with attempted capital murder and other counts stemming from a September 2005 attack on a 26-year-old woman in Fairfax City. The woman now lives in India but is expected to return to the U.S. to testify at Matthew's trial.

The hearing lasted less than 10 minutes, and Matthew, dressed in a green jail jumpsuit, said nothing other than entering his not guilty pleas.

Matthew was arrested and charged in September with abducting the University of Virginia student, 18-year-old Hannah Graham, whose remains were found near Charlottesville after a monthlong search.

Authorities say DNA evidence links him to the 2005 assault in Fairfax as well as the 2009 disappearance and death of Virginia Tech student Morgan Harrington.

After Matthew entered his not guilty plea, the judge set a March 9 trial date.



Jesse Matthew, right, looks toward the gallery while appearing in court on Friday, Nov. 14, 2014 in Fairfax, Va. Matthew, accused of abducting Hannah Graham, a University of Virginia student who was found dead last month, pleaded not guilty Friday on an unrelated sexual assault charge.

(AP Photo/Bill O'Leary, Pool)

Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh said the victim in the Fairfax attack now lives in

India, but will come back to the U.S. to testify at Matthew's trial.

"It's fair to say she looks for-

ward to a final resolution," Morrogh said. "I am grateful to her for her continued cooperation." □

Man pleads not guilty in Philadelphia kidnapping

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A woman kidnapped near a Philadelphia bus stop was bound and stuffed into the trunk of her captor's car during some of her three-day ordeal, prosecutors said in a detention memo Friday.

Delvin Barnes, 37, pleaded not guilty at a hearing Friday afternoon and agreed not to seek bail before trial. He was indicted Thursday on federal kidnapping charges in the Nov. 2 abduction of a 22-year-old nursing assistant.

Carlesha Freeland-Gaither was "forced to lie bound and cold in the trunk of the defendant's car," prosecutors wrote in the detention memo.

She survived, alternately fighting her captor by kicking out the car windows and later trying to befriend him, authorities have said. She has not spoken publicly about the crime, and rela-

tives who attended a City Hall ceremony honoring her rescuers said she has not yet returned to work.

"She's coming along, ... trying to readjust," her grandfather, Derek Alston, said Thursday.

She and Barnes were both in the back seat of his car when investigators found them in Maryland.

Police believe Barnes is the same man who kidnapped a teen a month earlier, poured bleach on her and tried to kill her. He was digging a grave when the girl escaped, authorities said. Barnes will be tried first in the Philadelphia abduction under a federal kidnapping statute that could bring a life sentence.

His public defender in Philadelphia, Elizabeth Toplin, told a judge Friday that Barnes would not seek bail. His case has been assigned to U.S. District Judge J. Curtis Joyner. □



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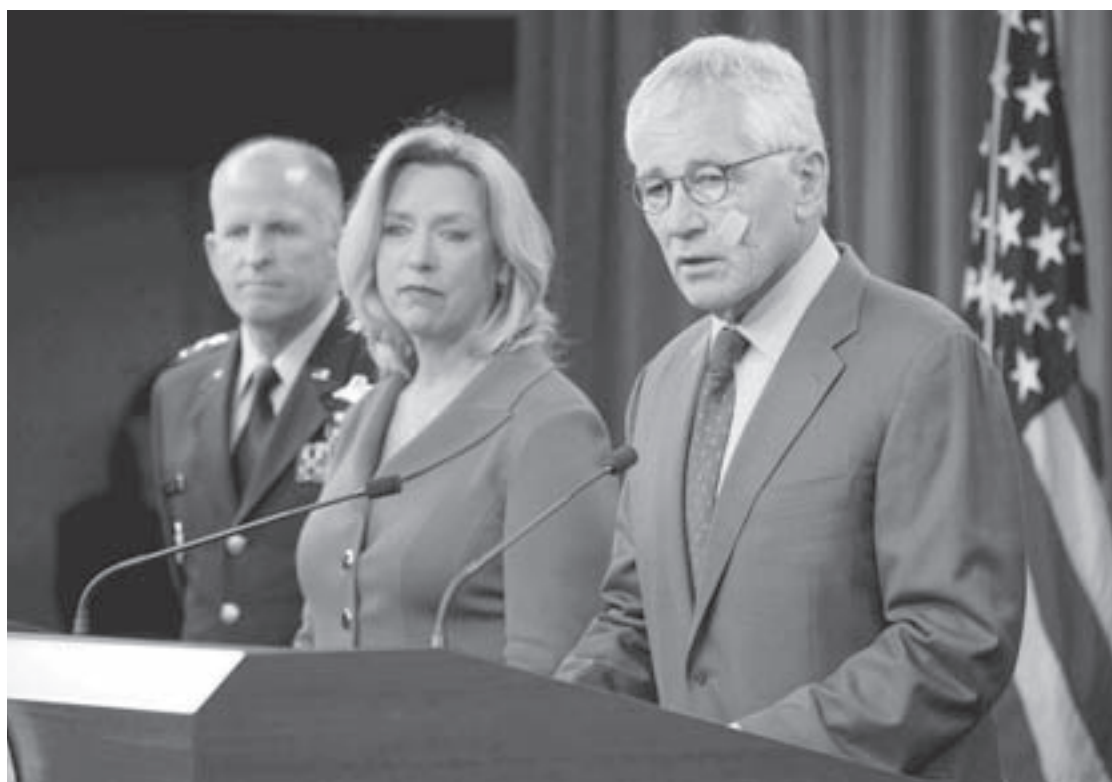
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US nuclear woes: Pentagon chief orders a shakeup

ROBERT BURNS
LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

MINOT AIR FORCE BASE, North Dakota (AP) — The Pentagon will spend an additional \$10 billion to correct deep problems of neglect and mismanagement within the nation's nuclear forces, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel declared Friday, pledging firm action to support the men and women who handle the world's most powerful and deadly weapons. Hagel ordered top-to-bottom changes in the nuclear arsenal's management, which he said had been allowed over the years to backslide, afflicted by broken and missing equipment, poor leadership and inadequate training and staffing. Hagel told a Pentagon news conference Friday morning — before flying to Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota where many of the nuclear force troubles began — that the Defense Department will boost spending on the nuclear forces by about 10 percent a year for the next

five years, saying there is no problem on this issue the Pentagon can't fix. That would be a total increase of about \$10 billion over the five years. Currently the Pentagon spends about \$15 billion a year on the nuclear mission. "The internal and external reviews I ordered show that a consistent lack of investment and support for our nuclear forces over far too many years has left us with too little margin to cope with mounting stresses," said Hagel, who was flanked by senior Air Force and Navy officers. "The root cause has been a lack of sustained focus, attention and resources, resulting in a pervasive sense that a career in the nuclear enterprise offers too few opportunities for growth and advancement." Hagel, who was getting briefings at Minot on Friday and then planning to speak to airmen there, ordered two reviews in February — one by Pentagon officials and a second by outside experts — as a result of a series of Associated Press stories that revealed



Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel speaks during a news conference at the Pentagon, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014, where he announced that he is ordering top-to-bottom changes in how the nation's nuclear arsenal is managed, vowing to invest billions of dollars more to fix what ails a force beset by leadership lapses, security flaws and sagging morale. From left are, Air Force Global Strike Command Commander Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee Jones, and Hagel.
 (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

lapses in leadership, morale, safety and security at the nation's three nuclear Air Force bases. The good news, Hagel said, "is there has been no nuclear exchange in the world." The head of his Strategic Com-

mand, Navy Adm. Cecil Haney, also noted the nuclear force has been operating securely. "You don't see the mushroom cloud or that sort of thing. We must continue that," he told reporters. Hagel acknowledged years of neglect since the Cold War's end rendered America's nuclear mission less relevant in a world of drones and counterterrorism. And he vowed renewed accountability. One of Hagel's predecessors, Robert Gates, fired his top military and civilian Air Force leaders in 2008 because of similar problems. But Hagel said, "Previous reviews of our nuclear enterprise lacked clear follow-up mechanisms." The new reviews concluded that the management structure of U.S. nuclear forces is so incoherent that top-level officials often are unaware of trouble below them. The reviews also found a "disconnect" between what nuclear force leaders say and what they provide to troops in the field. To illustrate the degree of decay in the intercontinental ballistic missile force, the reviews found that maintenance crews had access to only one tool set required to tighten

bolts on the warhead end of the Minuteman 3 missile, and that this single tool set was being used by crews at all three ICBM bases, in North Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. When one crew needed it, it was sent by another — by Federal Express. That "was a metaphor for how far things had fallen," said Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work, adding that eventually crew members stopped reporting the problem. "They had reported it over and over, and they just worked around it." Hagel said Friday the crews now have tool kits at each of the three bases and will soon get two each. The reviews also noted the poor morale across the force, saying that that culture debilitates people who might otherwise flourish. Missile crews in Launch Control Centers complained that equipment remained broken for months or years, and launch centers were even forced to shut down because of problems that persisted for a decade. Among his more significant moves, Hagel authorized the Air Force to put a four-star general in charge of its nuclear forces, according to officials. □



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US Financial Front:

American retail sales rise ahead of holiday shopping



Customers shop at the Century 21 Department Store in Philadelphia. The Commerce Department released retail sales data for October on Friday, Nov. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Matt Rourke)

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. retail sales rose modestly in October, evidence that recent job gains and lower gas prices are lifting consumer spending as the holiday shopping season begins.

The Commerce Department said Friday that retail sales rose 0.3 percent last month after falling by the same amount in September.

Excluding gas stations, where falling prices lowered spending, sales rose a solid 0.5 percent.

Employers have stepped up hiring, giving more Americans paychecks to spend and boosting consumer confidence. Stock prices have reached new highs, possibly encouraging more spending by wealthy households. Greater spending could spur more growth because consumer spending makes up about 70 percent of economic activity.

Auto sales rose a solid 0.5 percent, after falling sharply in September. Americans also spent more at restaurants and at sporting goods and health care stores.

Economists said the figures suggest consumer spending could rise by 2.5 percent to 3 percent in the fourth quarter. That would be only a moderate gain, but above the July-September quarter's 1.8 percent increase.

The report shows a "boost to consumer spending power and sentiment from plummeting gasoline prices that we anticipate will continue into the key holiday shopping period," said Ted Wieseman, an economist at Morgan Stanley.

Sales at electronics stores plunged after a big gain the previous month, when the newest iPhone went on sale.

The National Retail Federation, a trade group, has forecast that holiday sales — defined as retail sales in November and December — will rise 4.1 percent this year, compared with 2013. That would be the biggest gain in three years.

While many categories showed sales gains, there were some signs consumers remain cautious.

The category that includes major department stores and other general retailers reported flat sales last

month. That echoes the largely disappointing sales reports this week from many retail chains, including Macy's, J.C. Penney and Kohl's.

Wal-Mart, however, said that cheaper gas helped boost sales at its stores in the August-October quarter. The world's largest retailer said a key revenue

measure for its U.S. discount stores rose for the first time in nearly two years. But it also warned that deep discounting would likely lower profits over the holiday shopping season.

Outside retail chains, sales were mostly healthy. Online and catalog retail sales jumped 1.9 percent, the biggest gain since March.

And sales at restaurants and bars rose 0.9 percent, the most since May. Sporting goods stores said their sales climbed 1.2 percent. The economy and job market have made steady progress for most of this year. Employers have added an average of 229,000 jobs a month through October. □

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Obamacare 'stupidity'? Video reenergizes GOP repeal push

PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Newly surfaced videos are adding fresh energy to the efforts of U.S. congressional conservatives to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, feeding into their contentions that the overhaul was approved through a scheme of deception.

caught fire," says David Bozell, whose ForAmerica group campaigns against the health care law online. In one video, Gruber describes what he depicts as the behind-the-scenes political strategy of the law's supporters. At a 2013 public forum, he says Americans' lack of understanding helped Democrats pass the legislation.

politically unpalatable aspects and sneak them past an unsuspecting public. Sen. John McCain, a leading Republican, is among those calling for hearings, perhaps including Gruber as a witness. "This is what we complained about when we fought it for all those months on the floor. Nobody understood it," McCain said.



Jonathan Gruber poses in his home in Lexington, Mass. Newly surfaced videos have revived the push by congressional conservatives to repeal President Barack Obama's health care law, about to begin its second year of coverage for millions of Americans. The videos show an MIT economist who was an adviser in the law's drafting saying "the stupidity of the American voter" helped Democrats pass the complex legislation, among other incendiary claims.

(AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Some are calling anew for hearings on the law, which is about to begin its second year of health insurance coverage for millions of Americans. And activists are telling lawmakers to make good on their talk of scrapping the law or face defeat in the next elections. The videos show Massachusetts Institute of Technology economist Jonathan Gruber, an adviser in the law's drafting, saying that "the stupidity of the American voter" helped Democrats pass the complex legislation, regarded by the Obama administration as its signature accomplishment and likely to figure strongly in the president's legacy. "The Gruber clip has

Other impolitic statements have continued to dribble out in which Gruber claims that the law was written to deceive federal budget watchdogs and mocks conservatives' concerns over health care policy. He has since disavowed the most controversial remarks, saying he "spoke inappropriately and I regret having made those comments." Republicans, who made big gains during last week's congressional elections, have stood unified against the law they deride as "Obamacare," and they now point to Gruber's comments as yet another reason to dump it. They say the remarks show a cynical strategy by Democrats to camouflage the law's

The videos have put Democrats on the defensive. Traveling with Obama in Asia this week, White House press secretary Josh Earnest defended the health law and said he would "disagree vigorously" with Gruber's assessment. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, a Democrat instrumental in the law's passage, said she did not know Gruber — despite having cited his analysis at least once in the past during an on-camera briefing with reporters. "He didn't help write our bill," she said this week. Both policy and politics are in play for the Republicans. If congressional Republicans fail to push hard for repeal, they'll face angered activists.

Health care act faces test: Getting users to re-enroll

ABBY GOODNOUGH
ROBERT PEAR
© 2014 New York Times

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act will face a substantial new test starting Saturday, when the second enrollment period for buying health insurance under the law begins and proponents embark on a three-month mission to persuade millions more Americans to sign up.

Officials running the revamped online insurance exchanges are promising a smoother enrollment experience this time, after spending heavily on website overhauls and simplifying the application process. Outreach groups are rolling out different strategies, from holding "pop-up" enrollment events at shopping malls to bluntly emphasizing the tax penalties that many Americans will face if they fail to get covered. And the Obama administration is redoubling efforts to sign up young adults, members of minority groups and rural residents, who remain disproportionately uninsured.

But the current enrollment period brings with it complications. It will last only three months - half the length of the initial one, which ran from October through March.

And this time around, the insurance exchanges will be juggling two roles: signing up new customers, many of whom may be resistant or hard to reach, and trying to ensure that the seven million people who enrolled for 2014 remain covered.

Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the health and human services secretary, predicted this week that the total number of people insured through the exchanges would grow over the next year to 9.1 million - an increase of only two million.

"We are not expecting this to be a walk in the park," said Anne Filipic, the president of Enroll America, a nonprofit group that works with partners around the country to expand coverage. "What actually worries me more than anything is how consumers could easily be confused by all the different messages out there: Are you up for renewal? Are you uninsured?" Still, Filipic added in a call with reporters Thursday, "We know what works, we've developed new tools and partnerships to double down on those tactics, and we have the resources to get it done."

In another wrinkle, the sign up period is coming on the heels of an election that saw Republicans capture the Senate with renewed calls to repeal - or at least chip away at - the Affordable Care Act. And last week, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a challenge to the law that could result in millions of people losing the federal subsidies that help pay for their insurance.

"We need to make sure folks understand that things are moving ahead," said Erin Ninehouser, the education and outreach director of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network, which enrolls people across much of the state.

Obama's own role in publicizing the second enrollment period has been low key. A few days before enrollment started last year, he spoke about the law at a Maryland community college, exhorting an audience of 2,000 people to "tell your friends, tell your classmates, tell your family members" to sign up. This year, Obama is in Asia as open enrollment begins, but he will use his weekly radio address on Saturday to encourage people to sign up.

Continued on page 27

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ARUBA WINE TIDINE

Joint Serb-Russian military exercise held in Serbia

DUSAN STOJANOVIC
Associated Press

NIKINCI, Serbia (AP) — Camouflage-clad Russian soldiers parachute from the sky, armored vehicles fire live rounds on an open field after being dropped from military transport jets and helicopters fire missiles against enemy positions. Although the flat terrain resembles the Ukrainian war zones, this is not an armed Russian intervention against its neighbor. It's the first-ever joint Serb-Russian military exercise in Serbia, the Balkan country that has been performing a delicate balancing act in between its Slavic ally Russia and Western Europe, with which Belgrade wants to integrate. The "anti-terrorist" drill on Friday — the first such by the Russians outside the former Soviet Union — of elite Russian troops in northern Serbia, not far from NATO-member Croatia, has stirred controversy both here and abroad. "Serbia's government wants to try and keep everyone happy," said promi-

nent Balkan political analyst Tim Judah.

"So, the U.S. helps finance and modernize Serbia's army while now Serbian sol-

Although Serbian officials say they respect Ukraine's territorial integrity and do not support Russia's annexation of Crimea, they

cultural ties, and Moscow has backed Belgrade's bid to maintain its claim over Kosovo — a former Serbian province that declared in-

to join the European Union comes as Russia, blamed by the West for fomenting the Ukraine crisis, tries to increase the Kremlin's presence in the Balkans.

"During our short stay in Serbia, we established the basis for expanding of our military relations," said Russian Gen. Vladimir Shamotov. Russian President Vladimir Putin was in Belgrade last month where he received a hero's welcome that included a Soviet-style military parade.

The head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, arrived in Belgrade on Friday.

"Serbia says it supports the territorial integrity of Ukraine, yet it welcomes Putin with a military parade and its soldiers are training with the army that annexed Crimea and is fighting in Ukraine," Judah said. "As the (Ukrainian) war goes on this is an increasingly untenable position and Serbia's government will just annoy both Russia and its Western friends rather than being on good terms with all."



A Serbian soldier, top right, on armored personnel carrier looks towards Russian airborne infantry fighting vehicles, front, during the Russian-Serb joint antiterrorist exercise Srem 2014, at Nikinci training ground, 60 kilometers west of Belgrade, Serbia, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

diers train with Russians. In normal times there would be little to say about this, but post-Crimea, these are not normal times anymore."

have refused to impose sanctions against Russia like the EU and the U.S. have. Russia and Serbia have traditionally close historic and

dependence in 2008 with the support of Washington and its allies. The show of Russian military might in a country seeking

US hits al-Qaida militants in Syria for third time

RYAN LUCAS
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. aircraft fired missiles at al-Qaida militants in Syria for a third time as part of the international campaign against Islamic extremists, American officials and a Syrian activist said. American defense officials said the strike took place Thursday and targeted the Khorasan group, which the U.S. says is a special cell within al-Qaida's Syrian branch — plotting attacks against Western interests. The officials did not

provide any details, and spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief the media. Later Friday, the U.S. Central Command said in a statement that a U.S. airstrike "struck terrorists associated with a network of veteran al-Qaida operatives, sometimes called the 'Khorasan Group,' who are plotting external attacks against the United States and our allies. CENTCOM said the airstrike was conducted in northwest Syria west of Aleppo province. Syrian activist Asaad Kanjo said the attack occurred

near the town of Harem in Syria's northwestern Idlib province near the Turkish border. He said residents reported seeing a drone fire two missiles that struck a Nusra Front base, killing at least two people. It was the third time the U.S. has bombed the Nusra Front since the American-led coalition began conducting airstrikes in Syria in September against the Islamic State group and other extremists. The U.S. military says the attacks that have hit the Nusra Front have only targeted the Khorasan group, and

not hit the wider Nusra organization. Inside Syria, however, activists and rebels dismiss the U.S. attempt to distinguish between the Khorasan group and Nusra, saying they are one entity. Many analysts also question the distinction. The strikes against the Nusra Front have touched off a wave of criticism among many in Syria. While the group is considered a terrorist organization by the United States, among the Syrian opposition it has a degree of support and respect because its fighters

are on the front lines alongside other rebels battling President Bashar Assad's forces in Syria's 3 1/2-year civil war. Many Syrians also say the strikes against Nusra are helping Assad by weakening one of his strongest opponents. The president of the International Committee of the Red Cross Peter Maurer said at the end of a three-day visit to the Syrian capital of Damascus that parties in the Syrian conflict must do more to protect civilians, including health care providers and detainees.

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This image posted on a militant website shows renderings of a 5 gold dinar coin, a new coin that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State group, ordered the group to start minting for its own currency - the Islamic dinar. The Arabic on the left image shows 5 for the first line and 1436 (Islamic year) for the second. The Arabic on the right image shows the Islamic State for the first line, Gold 21 for the second line, 5 dinar for the third line, 21.25 grams for the fourth line and A Caliphate Based on the Doctrine of the Prophet for the fifth line.

(AP Photo/Militant website)

IS group says it'll mint its own coins

MAAMOUN YOUSSEF

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The leader of the Islamic State group has ordered the terror organization to start minting gold, silver and copper coins for its own currency — the Islamic dinar. A website affiliated with the group posted the order late Thursday, saying IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi instructed his followers to mint the coins to “change the tyrannical monetary system” modelled on Western economies that “enslaved Muslims.”

The order was approved by the Islamic State group's Shura Council, an advisory board, according to the website. The authenticity of the posting could not be independently verified but the website has been used

in the past for IS postings. After seizing large swaths of Iraqi and Syrian territory earlier this year, the Islamic State group proclaimed a caliphate on lands under its control. It has also sought to implement its harsh interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia, and al-Baghdadi has proclaimed himself the caliph. According to photographs of coin prototypes, they carry the words in Arabic: “The Islamic State / A Caliphate Based on the Doctrine of the Prophet.” It's unclear where the Islamic State group intends to get the gold, silver and copper for the coins. It said the dinar's purchasing power would be its weight in gold, silver or copper. One of the gold coins carries the symbol of seven

stalks of wheat, mentioned in the Quran, while another has the map of the world, a reference to Islam someday ruling the entire world. One of the silver coins shows a sword and a shield in a reference to holy war, or jihad while another has a minaret symbolizing Damascus mentioned in one of the Prophet Muhammad's sayings.

Another coin carries the symbol of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, where the Prophet prayed. It's revered as Islam's third-holiest place, complete with the site's iconic gold-topped Dome of the Rock, which enshrines the rock from which Muslims believe the Prophet ascended to heaven.

The copper coins carry the symbol of the crescent moon and three palm trees, also significant in Islam.

The posting said instructions from the Islamic State's treasury department would be forthcoming, explaining to the people how to use the currency.

Israel lifts Muslim age limits for holy site in Jerusalem

IAN DEITCH

JERUSALEM (AP) — A Jerusalem holy site at the heart of recent tensions between Israelis and Palestinians was quiet on Friday, police said, after age restrictions for Muslim men who wanted to pray there were lifted for the first time in weeks, but minor clashes with Palestinian protesters continued in the West Bank. Police have said age restrictions banning Muslim men under the age of 35 are occasionally imposed on the holy site in an attempt to reduce violence that often involves young Palestinians throwing rocks and firecrackers in protests held at the compound — which is sacred to both Muslims and Jews.

Palestinians have protested against age limitations in the past. It's not clear if the calm Friday was due to the lifting of the restrictions — a possible confidence building measure — or the result of diplomatic progress the night before.

The development came a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Jordan's King Abdullah II in an attempt to restore calm in the holy city that has seen months of tension and violent confrontations.

The Imam of the compound's Al-Aqsa Mosque, Ekrima Sabri, said “no instructions” were given for the calm Friday. “Police treated the worshippers peacefully so they were peaceful,” he said.

Azzam Khatib, director general of the, Waqf, Jordan's Islamic authority which manages the site, said “40,000 worshippers came today peacefully and prayed and left the mosque quietly. We hope it's a new page. We will monitor the Israeli performance in the coming days and weeks.”

Police spokeswoman Luba Samri said the site was open to Muslims of all ages for weekly prayers and there were no immediate reports of violence.

In recent weeks, Palestinians have clashed with police at the holy site, sometimes in response to visits by Jewish worshippers. The visits have stoked fears and allegations among the Palestinians that Israel intends to alter decades-old arrangements regarding access to the site, something Israel adamantly denies.

U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Jen Psaki hailed Friday's lifting of the age restrictions as a much-needed good-faith gesture to help calm down the situation. “This is an important development. It's one we certainly welcome. And a positive step toward maintaining the status quo of the site,” Psaki told reporters in Washington. “Now, the situation is still very tense. We have our eyes open. We will remain engaged and in touch with the leaders, and of course, actions by the parties going forward are the key to restoring and maintaining calm.”

Samri said police are investigating claims that an 11-year-old Palestinian boy was seriously wounded during a protest on Thursday in east Jerusalem. Samer Mahmoud said his son Saleh was struck in the face by a rubber bullet that fractured his skull.



North Korea to send senior envoy to visit Russia

CHOE SANG-HUN

© 2014 New York Times

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, plans to send a senior envoy to Moscow, state-run media announced Friday, as the country seeks to improve its relations with Russia.

Choe Ryong Hae, a member of the Presidium of the Politburo of the North's ruling Workers' Party of Korea, will travel to Moscow "in the near future" as the top leader's special envoy, the Korean Central News Agency reported.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Choe on Monday would begin an eight-day trip to the country to discuss improving political and economic ties. Choe will visit Vladivostok, which is near North Korea, on his way home from Moscow, the statement said.

The North Korean report did not elaborate on Choe's trip. South Korean news media said without citing sources he was likely to meet with President Vladimir Putin.

Choe is widely considered

one of Kim's closest aides. He visited Beijing in May of last year and met with President Xi Jinping.

Choe's trip to Moscow comes as North Korea is relying on its old Cold War allies China and Russia to veto any U.N. move to bring Kim before the International Criminal Court on accusations that his country violated human rights.

In February, a U.N. panel submitted a report accusing the North Korean government of systematic torture, killings and starvation and said that top leaders

could be held accountable for crimes against humanity.

The General Assembly is expected to vote on a resolution condemning North Korea's human rights abuses later this year, but only the Security Council, where Russia and China wield veto power, can refer the matter to the international court.

China, North Korea's main ally, has already indicated it would likely block such a move.

Pyongyang has recently tried to improve its relations

with Moscow as a possible counterbalance to China. Beijing has been under international pressure to use its economic

influence to discourage the North from conducting nuclear and missile tests and engaging in other acts seen by the West as provocations. Years of sanctions have left North Korea increasingly reliant on trade with China, and leaders in Pyongyang have grown uncomfortable with that economic dependence, and the leverage it gives Beijing, analysts said. □

France: Wild cat on the prowl but it's not a tiger

MILOS KRIVOKAPIC

Associated Press

MONTEVRAIN, France

(AP) — A two-day search by some 200 French police and members of the armed forces for a wild cat roaming through towns and across a major highway came to one conclusion Friday: It isn't a tiger.

The wild cat caught in several fuzzy photographs in the town of Montevrain was spotted again Friday morning by truckers on a main route between Paris and eastern France.

But in a statement late Friday, the regional administration near the search site said experts have concluded that the wandering animal isn't a tiger, but a feline of an unknown species. France's national hunting office could not be reached for comment.

One theory is that the mys-

tery cat could be a lynx — the wild cat once common in France before being

hunted out of existence. It was reintroduced in France in the 1970s, according to

the wildlife group Ferus.

But the nearest known lynx habitat, the Vosges Moun-

tain, is 350 kilometers (215 miles) away from where the cat was first spotted Thursday.

Residents of Montevrain and two other towns were urged to stay indoors — but most people seemed to be taking the big cat hunt in stride, even as a helicopter buzzed over woods east of Paris.

"He was also seen by truck drivers on the road," said Christian Robache, the mayor of Montevrain. A Total gas station near the sighting was briefly closed, and police officers guarded a local school Friday as children arrived for class.

But the operator of Disneyland Paris, one of Europe's top tourist destinations, said it wasn't taking any special precautions because the animal isn't deemed a threat. The theme park in the region is surrounded by a large wall. □



Police officers, right, and members of the animal police brigade gather in Ferrieres-en-Brie, east of Paris, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014. A reported tiger on the loose near Disneyland Paris apparently crossed a major highway and slinked past a gas station Friday, still eluding the 200 French police and military forces trying to hunt it down. The two-day search by some 200 French police and members of the armed forces for the wild cat came to one conclusion Friday: It isn't a tiger.

(AP Photo/Thibault Camus)

Pope to comfort Filipino victims of deadly typhoon

NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope

Francis will host a luncheon for Filipino survivors of the deadly Typhoon Haiyan during his Jan. 12-19 visit to Sri Lanka and the Philippines, his second visit to Asia in a year that confirms the region is a priority for his pontificate.

The Vatican on Friday released the itinerary for the

pope's visit, which comes just five months after his August pilgrimage to South Korea.

Francis first flies to Colombo, where he will canonize Sri Lanka's first saint, the Rev. Giuseppe Baz, a 17th-century missionary credited with reviving the Catholic faith in the country.

The pope arrives in Manila Jan. 15, and two days later flies to the central city of Ta-

cloban, hardest hit by the Nov. 8, 2013, typhoon that left more than 7,300 people dead or missing. There he will celebrate Mass, host a luncheon and comfort survivors.

The visit is "very unexpected but is also very much welcome," Archbishop John Du of Palo near Tacloban said in a statement.

Francis' final public event is a Mass in Manila's Rizal Park

on Jan. 18. The Philippines' presidential executive secretary, Paquito Ochoa, said the crowd was expected to number "in the millions." When St. John Paul II visited the Philippines in 1995, he drew 5 million people to Mass, a record that no pope has since matched. Francis just may, given his enormous popularity in a country that appreciates his attention to the poor.

Asia is widely considered the future of the Catholic Church, growing there while it withers in traditionally Christian Europe. Despite being a minority religion in every Asian nation except the Philippines, which is predominantly Roman Catholic, the church baptizes more Catholics in Asia every year than in Europe, according to Vatican statistics. □

Brazil execs arrested as Petrobras scandal grows

BRAD BROOKS
STAN LEHMAN

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's federal police on Friday sharply expanded what is evolving into the nation's biggest political kickback scandal, arresting top ex-

lion dollars, with the money eventually being fed back to the governing Workers Party and other top parties for political campaigns. Police arrested Renato Duque, the former director of services of Petrobras, for his alleged role in the

remain buried deep under the sea. Authorities also struck at the heart of some of Brazil's biggest private construction companies, enterprises that are consistently among the top donors to political campaigns via legal contributions.

when it comes to big infrastructure works and state-controlled companies.

Last year, millions of Brazilians took to the streets in anti-government protests calling for the end of graft, which many blame for siphoning off funds needed to improve woeful public services that also angered demonstrators.

On Friday, police arrested top executives during raids on the offices of builders OAS and Queiroz Galvao, the industrial engineering firm UTC and Iesa Oil and Gas. An arrest warrant also was issued for the top executive of builder Camargo Correa. Authorities hauled away boxes of documents and the personal bank accounts of the executives were frozen.

Police also searched and confiscated documents in the offices of Brazil's biggest builder, Odebrecht, and the Mendes Junior and Engevix firms.

For months police have been investigating the alleged Petrobras kickback scheme in an effort they named "Operation Car Wash."

Many of the allegations center on what police have heard from Alberto Youssef, a convicted black-market money dealer who said that he laundered hundreds of millions in the scheme and that the governing party benefited from it.



Veja magazine with its cover showing President Dilma Rousseff and former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva sit for sale at a news stand in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rousseff denounced an October report in the newsmagazine suggesting she and her predecessor were aware of a corruption scheme within state-run oil giant Petrobras.

(AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

ecutives from some of the country's biggest construction companies along with another former director of the state-run oil company. Authorities allege top officials from state-run oil company Petrobras operated a kickback scheme on contracts involving several bil-

lion dollars. Petrobras is Brazil's biggest company and is being counted on to tap big offshore oil fields that leaders hope will propel the country to developed world status. But the debt-plagued firm hasn't met development goals, and the riches

Now, police are directly targeting them for allegedly making illegal kickbacks worth exponentially more than the legal campaign contributions. The case fuels widespread belief among Brazilians that their political system is rife with corruption, especially

WORLD BRIEFS

Uruguay leader won't sell car for even \$1 million

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — Uruguay's President Jose Mujica says he's turning down a \$1 million offer for his famous 27-year-old Volkswagen Beetle.

Mujica says an Arab sheikh had offered to buy the car, which has become a symbol of Mujica's ostentatiously unpretentious style. But he told a radio program on Friday that he couldn't sell the sky-blue Volkswagen because it would offend some friends who had given it to him, and he also says he's fond of the car.

He also has another sitting at his ramshackle flower farm, and officially declared the value of both together as \$4,385. The 79-year-old leader leaves office next year.

Dutch gov't says Starbucks tax deal legitimate

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Dutch government says it did nothing wrong when it struck a tax deal with Starbucks that the European Union Commission alleges is so favorable to the company it amounts to state aid. The Commission issued a report Friday on its findings in an ongoing investigation into Starbucks' Dutch tax deal. The report describes how Starbucks funnels European profits to the Netherlands but pays little tax, using a strategy pre-approved by Dutch tax authorities.

Starbucks had its European headquarters in the Netherlands in 2011 and 2012 but paid less than \$1 million tax there in those years. Dutch minister Eric Wiebes said in a response the agreement "fits completely within the international standards" and the Cabinet's strategy for "creating an attractive investment climate." Starbucks has a month to respond.

Hunger striker grows weaker in Trinidad protest

TONY FRASER
Associated Press

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP) — An environmental activist on the 58th day of a hunger strike to protest a Trinidad highway project on Friday rebuffed a government offer of dialogue as his health deteriorates.

Activist Wayne Kublalsingh said he would only suspend the strike if the government agrees to mediation that includes an independent expert along with opponents of the project. Kublalsingh wants the government of Trinidad and Tobago to change the route of a 9-mile (14-kilometer) stretch of the Port Fortin

highway extension project to protect an area of wetlands and remote villages. "We have been having dialogue for 10 years, exchanging letters without sincerity on the part of governments," said Kublalsingh, one of the country's most prominent environmental activists. The increasingly gaunt activist said he would only completely end the protest if a "mutually acceptable" solution is reached in the dispute. In December 2012, Kublalsingh went on a hunger strike for 21 days to protest the project, breaking it only when the government agreed to an independent

review. The review did find that there had been inadequate analysis of the possible environmental harm to the Oropouche Lagoon and social impacts to 12 rural communities in the area but the government refused to re-route the highway and a court declined to block the project. Works and Infrastructure Minister Suruj Rambachan said Friday that the government hopes to still persuade Kublalsingh to end his protest of a \$1.1 billion project that will ease traffic congestion and link southern Trinidad with the capital. "Through dialogue

we hope to persuade Dr. Kublalsingh and the Highway Re-route Movement (HRM) that the adopted route of the San Fernando to Point Fortin highway makes good economic sense," Rambachan said. Kublalsingh appears extremely frail. He says he has taken no nourishment with the exception of intravenous fluids administered in a hospital after he recently collapsed from weakness. "I expect my body will eventually give in," he said. "But I have decided to wage this moral war against degradation of the environment, to make government accountable."



Loyal Visitors Honored at the Divi Phoenix Resort

PALM BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a group of loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort, as Distinguished Visitors and Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 and 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. Daniel and Mrs. Deborah de Lorenzo of Howell, New Jersey, Mr. Greg Burkes of Chicago, Illinois, Mr. Richard and Mrs. Barbara Klump of Coatesville, Pennsylvania, and Mr. Brad and Mrs. Anna Mae Hibbard of West Brookfield, Massachusetts. All the honorees are loyal members of the Divi Phoenix Beach Resort and they love Aruba very much



because of the friendly people, the weather, the beaches, the restaurants, the casinos, and because Aruba feels like a second home, the people are like

a family to them, and the Divi Phoenix is their home away from home! The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the

Aruba Tourism Authority together with Ms. Pearl Lake, Mr. Marchell and Mr. Gerritt Griffith, GM of the Divi Phoenix.



December 17-21:

Diplo & Skrillex to perform at ParadiseWorld in Curaçao!



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WILLEMSTAD - ParadiseWorld is coming back to Curaçao for its third consecutive annual edition with a complete music festival & conference experience featuring pool parties, nightclub events, after-hours, networking sessions and one BIG music festival. The dates are set

for December 17th through 21st. The main event will be held on Saturday, December 20th featuring Diplo & Skrillex with a few surprise special guests performing water-side at the "Kleine Werf" in the heart of Downtown Curaçao. Diplo is a music producer, rapper, and songwriter based in Los Angeles, California. He founded and manages record company Mad Decent, he is also the

creator and lead member of the popular electronic dancehall music project, Major Lazer. Diplo was recently featured on the cover of Billboard Magazine and just spent some time in the studio with Madonna working on her new upcoming album.

Skrillex is an American Electronic Dance Music producer, DJ, and singer-songwriter who has won a total of six Grammy Awards. Skrillex has built a massive social media following of over 30 millions fans and become the face of Electronic Dance Music today.

Diplo & Skrillex are the hottest Electronic Music Duo of the moment, performing together at the biggest music festivals of 2014. They are scheduled to headline the "New Year's Eve" show at the famous Madison Square Garden in New York City shortly after



ParadiseWorld in Curaçao. In partnership with the Curaçao Tourist Board, ParadiseWorld crosses geographical boundaries by promoting the island of Curaçao around the world as an electronic dance music and entertainment destination.

The first two editions of ParadiseWorld in Curaçao were a big success attract-

ing thousands of music enthusiasts hailing from Curaçao, Aruba, Holland, Venezuela, Brazil, Suriname, Canada and the United States. This year ParadiseWorld promises to raise the bar to new heights with its biggest edition to date.

ParadiseWorld has partnered up with Renaissance Resort Curaçao who will be hosting the full 5 day music conference. Renaissance is offering a special rate for "ParadiseWorld 2014" starting at \$125 per night: <http://tiny.cc/ParadiseWorld>

"The island is home to the ParadiseWorld Destination Music Festival"

- The New York Times General Admission and VIP tickets are now available at: <http://www.paradiseworldfestival.com/tickets> For more information visit: <http://www.paradiseworldfestival.com>. □



Rancho La Ponderosa, Countryside Horseback Ride Recognized as "Low Volume Tour of the Season," by Princess Cruises, 2013/14 season

ORANJESTAD – Lisa Jensen, Manager, Shore Operations, Princess Cruises, had the distinct pleasure of recognizing De Palm Tours Corporation NV. and Rancho La Ponderosa, while in the Oranjestad Harbor. Recently, a short and congenial award ceremony designed to recognize excellence among local tour operators rendering services to Princess Cruises passengers when here on stop-overs, included an award presentation, a tour of the ship and elegant



breakfast. Ramon Herrera accepted the handsome plaque on behalf of De Palm Tours Corporation NV, La Ponderosa Ranch and his partner Luis 'Lucho' Claro. Rancho La Ponderosa, won the prestigious award based on high ratings and positive passenger comments, in addition

to the tour being of excellent value to cruise ship passengers. Luis 'Lucho' Claro and Ramon Herrera owners of Rancho La Ponderosa Horseback Tours, report that they have already been recognized by the cruise liner a number of times, as Tour of the Season since 2008/2009, and



they are always pleased to receive such accolades and positive feed-back, contributing to passengers' overall impression of their cruise vacation. The Tour of the Season award comes as no surprise. Lucho is one of the island's most respected horsemen. With more than 35 years of experience, Rancho La Ponderosa remains a top choice among both visitors and local residents as the place to go for outstanding horseback riding adventures. From the saddle of Lucho's

private stock of quality Paso Fino horses, visitors can enjoy the beauty of Aruba touring country trails, escorted by professional and knowledgeable guides. Rancho La Ponderosa offers Paso Fino horses, known for their even temperament and comfortable ride, paired with quality, experienced guides, on safe, scenic trails and best of all, free pick-up & return to the hotels, which all contribute to memorable excursions, cherished long after the suntan is gone.

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EAGLE BEACH - Dirk and Doris Döfer from Germany were recently honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba due to their 10th consecutive visit. Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony held at the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. According to the couple, they love the beautiful beaches and wonderful food. On group picture you can admire the honorees, ATA's rep Marouska and Deborah of the Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort. □





National Basketball Association commissioner Adam Silver greets San Antonio Spurs owner Peter Holt as they watch the Spurs play the Los Angeles Clippers during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Monday, Nov. 10, 2014, in Los Angeles.
Associated Press

U.S. pro sports leagues gradually embrace gambling

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

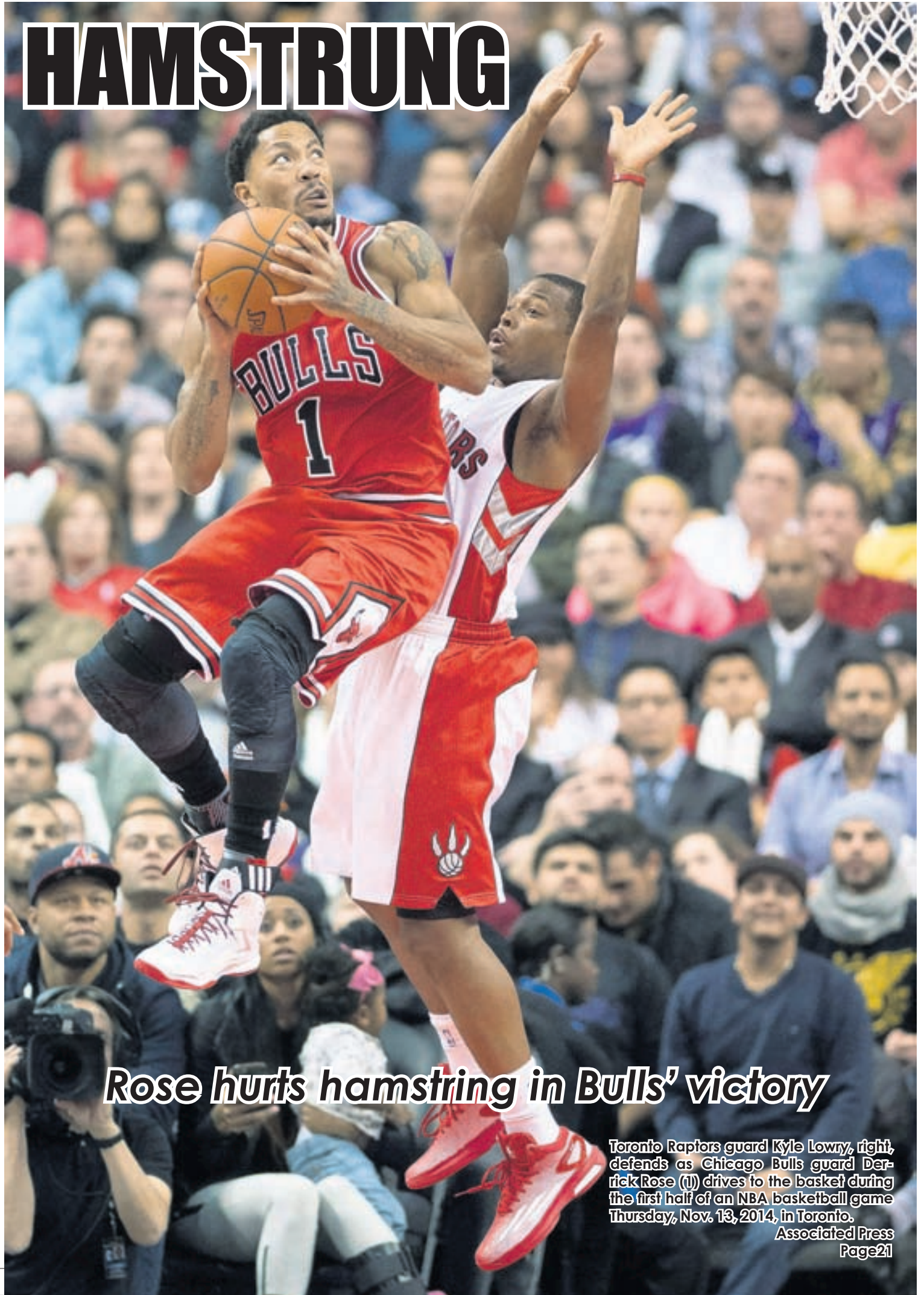
Professional sports leagues in the United States that once professed zero tolerance for gambling are moving steadily toward accepting betting on their games, partly because of the futility in fighting it and partly to get a cut of the action.

One day after the NBA signed a sponsorship agreement with FanDuel, a website where fans can win (and lose) money playing daily fantasy sports, league commissioner Adam Silver wrote an op-ed article saying it was time to consider legalizing sports gambling.

"There is an obvious appetite among sports fans for a safe and legal way to wager on professional sporting events," Silver said in an op-ed article published in The New York Times online edition Thursday.

Continued on Page 22

HAMSTRUNG



Rose hurts hamstring in Bulls' victory

Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry, right, defends as Chicago Bulls guard Derrick Rose (11) drives to the basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, in Toronto.
Associated Press
Page 21

Tannehill rallies Dolphins past Bills 22-9

MIAMI GARDENS, Florida (AP) — Miami quarterback Ryan Tannehill passed for two late touchdowns to lift the Dolphins to a 22-9 home win over Buffalo on Thursday, ending a run of three-straight losses. NFL Roundup

Tannehill was sacked five times but completed 26 of 34 passes for 240 yards and threw touchdown passes to Brandon Gibson and Jarvis Landry. Lamar Miller rushed for 86 yards for the Dolphins, who trailed 9-3 before outscoring Buffalo 19-0 over the final 18 minutes.

"It was great to swing the tide," Landry said. "It was good not to be the little brother."

The Dolphins improved to 6-4, their best record after 10 games since 2008.

"You have to start playing good football this time of the year," coach Joe Philbin said.

The Bills, trying to end a 14-



Miami Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill (17) looks for an open receiver as Buffalo Bills strong safety Da'Norris Searcy (25) closes in during the first half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

year playoff drought, fell to 5-5.

Stymied by Buffalo's front four in recent meetings, the Dolphins had scored just one touchdown in 33 possessions against the Bills before late TD drives of 80 and 63 yards. That was quite a rally by a team that hadn't won a close game all season.

Otherwise a stout defense did the heavy lifting for Miami, which scored a safety on a penalty.

The Bills, ranked last in the NFL in red-zone touchdown efficiency, mounted grinding drives of 67 and 85 yards on their first two possessions but Miami held them to a field goal each time, and those were their best TD chances.

The Bills have reached the end zone once in their past nine red-zone trips.

"In the first half we had two drives we didn't finish," coach Doug Marrone said.

□



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NFL Preview

Luck looking to make some against Brady, Patriots

The Associated Press

The New England Patriots are the NFL's hottest team with five straight victories, including a romp past the Denver Broncos before last week's bye. They go to Indianapolis on Sunday, when a win for either could set up home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs.

After besting Peyton Manning, Patriots passer Tom Brady faces off with Colts quarterback Andrew Luck.

Luck leads the league with 3,085 yards passing and has thrown 26 touchdowns, second only to Manning, his predecessor in Indianapolis.

Luck has already beaten both Mannings, Aaron Rodgers, Russell Wilson, Joe Flacco and Colin Kaepernick. The most glaring omission from that list: Three-time Super Bowl winner Brady, who is 2-0 against Luck, generally regarded as the best young quarterback in the league.

"He does a lot of things I wish I could do," Brady said, referring to Luck. "He's big, fast, shrugs off blockers. He makes a lot of extended plays. He's a great passer." Luck has similar thoughts about Brady.

"He (Brady) does a lot of things I can't do. There's a lot of Super Bowls so far," Luck said, laughing. "His mastery of the quarterback position is something I definitely admire from afar, and what he's able to do consistently for every game for so many years."

Luck and Brady are likely to lean heavily on their tight ends again. Rob

Gronkowski leads the Patriots with 663 yards receiving and eight touchdowns and is second with 49 catches. Colts tight ends Dwayne Allen and Coby Fleener don't get as much publicity, but they're combined numbers — 48 catches, 669 yards and 11 touchdowns — impress. Colts-Patriots is one of five Week 11 games which pit teams with solid Super Bowl aspirations, including Arizona-Detroit, Kansas City-Seattle, Green Bay-Philadelphia and New Orleans-Cincinnati.

The Cardinals and Lions aren't used to being this relevant this late in the season. The winner at University of Phoenix Stadium will have the inside track for best record in the NFC. But the Cardinals head into the home game without starting quarterback Carson Palmer, out for the season with a knee injury. That means Drew Stanton must step up, which doesn't seem to faze coach Bruce Arians.

"Every guy in that room knows that he'll be ultimately prepared and more than capable of beating everybody that we play," Arians said.

This one might be decided by the defenses: Detroit is ranked first overall, and Arizona leads the NFC with 19 takeaways.

Packers-Eagles could be a shootout, if Eagles quarterback Mark Sanchez, in for the injured Nick Foles, can keep up with Rodgers. Rodgers has been unstoppable recently, throwing for six touchdowns

in the first half against Chicago last Sunday. The Packers' defense is starting to come around, as well.

So is Philly's, with linebacker Connor Barwin having 10 1/2 sacks since Week 4, the most in the NFL, and Brandon Graham tied for first with four forced fumbles.

The Seahawks are on a three-game winning streak, but they face a Chiefs side which has won four straight, allowing just 50 points in that span, and six of seven.

The Chiefs are the only NFL team that has not allowed a touchdown rushing. Marshawn Lynch ran for four last week against the New York Giants, and tops the league with 12. Seattle has run for at least 100 yards in seven straight games.

Also on Sunday, it's



In this Nov. 2, 2014, file photo, New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) celebrates with wide receiver Danny Amendola (80) in the first half of an NFL football game against the Denver Broncos in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

Minnesota at Chicago, Denver at St. Louis, Houston at Cleveland, Atlanta at Carolina, Tampa Bay at Washington, San Francisco at N.Y. Giants, and Oakland at San Diego. On Monday, Pittsburgh is at Tennessee.

The action began on

Thursday, when the Miami Dolphins rallied in the second half to knock off the Buffalo Bills 22-9. Despite 3 1-2 sacks by Buffalo's Mario Williams, Ryan Tannehill threw for two touchdowns after the break and the Dolphins shut down the Bills two periods.





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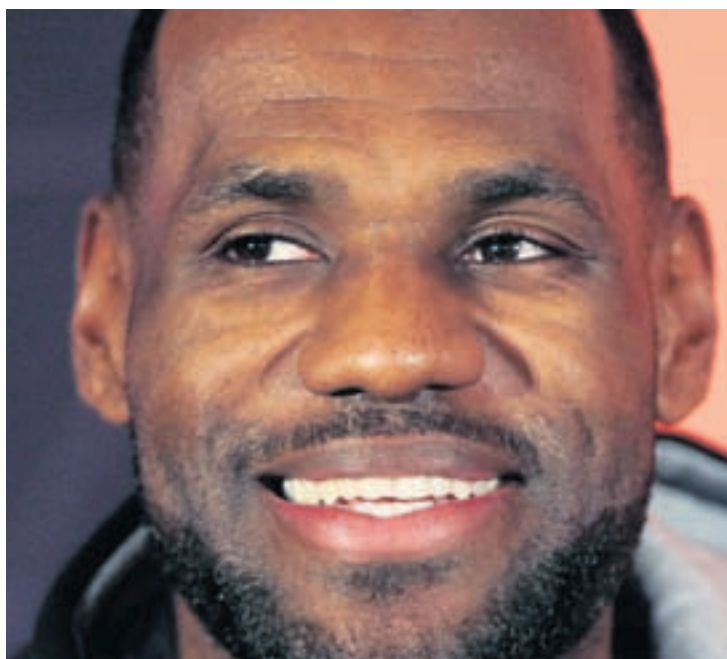
JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Even with almost 17 million followers on Twitter and nearly 22 million on Facebook, LeBron James didn't hesitate when asked his preferred method of connecting with fans.

"The basketball court," the Cleveland Cavaliers star said on Thursday during an "idea exchange" at Fenway Park.

Speaking to business leaders at the home of the Boston Red Sox, James said his goal was to remain authentic, whether it's in his business relationships or his interactions with fans. The two-time NBA champion said he won't endorse a product unless he likes it, and he won't speak out on an issue unless he means it. "The people, the consumer, they know what's real and what's fake," said James, whose Cavaliers



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James smiles as he listens to a question during a gathering at Fenway Park in Boston, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014. James joined a business panel to discuss the ways sponsors and athletes try to engage fans in a digital age.

Associated Press

were in town for Friday's game against the Boston Celtics. "You cannot shortcut, you cannot cheat, because they will know."

James has one of the top 50 Twitter followings, second among world athletes only to footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. He cultivates it with

the usual updates about what's going on in his life — his newborn daughter couldn't sleep the previous night — and also with thoughts on larger issues.

"My fans are part of the reason I am where I am today," he said. "I'd love them to ride along this ride."

James was one of the league's most vocal critics of Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling, who was recorded making racist statements. James said there was no place in the NBA for Sterling, who was eventually forced to sell the team.

"I make decisions to speak about things when I have knowledge about it," said James, who also spoke out after the 2012 shooting of Trayvon Martin. "Things that I feel passionate about, things that I feel my power and my voice can bring something to, I will speak

out about it."

Fans respond to James, according to SapientNitro Chief Marketing Officer Bill Kanarick, who moderated the panel with James and his business partner Maverick Carter. Each tweet he sends leads to 2,800 retweets or responses, Kanarick said; Justin Bieber, who has 56.7 million Twitter followers, has an average of 1,700 interactions per tweet.

"I don't think there's a selfish or commercial interest," Kanarick said. "It's a personal decision to connect with fans."



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Rose hurts hamstring, Bulls beat Raptors 100-93

The Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Pau Gasol had a season-high 27 points and 11 rebounds, Derrick Rose scored 20 points before leaving with a sore left hamstring, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Toronto Raptors 100-93 on Thursday night.

Jimmy Butler scored 21 and Mike Dunleavy had 14 as the Bulls won for the sixth time in seven games and snapped Toronto's five-game winning streak in the matchup of teams with the best records in the Eastern Conference. Both teams are 7-2.

Rose stumbled on a drive to the basket late in the fourth and was replaced by Dunleavy with 1:53 left, taking a seat at the end of the bench.

Kyle Lowry scored 20 and James Johnson had 16 against his former team, but the Raptors lost for the first time in six home games this season.

MAVERICKS 123, 76ERS 70

DALLAS (AP) — Dirk Nowitzki scored 21 points while playing only 20 minutes and Dallas had its largest victory ever while keeping Philadelphia winless.

The 53-point margin for Dallas surpassed its 50-point win over the New York Knicks in January 2010.

At 0-8, Philadelphia is the only NBA team without a victory. The only time the 76ers have gone deeper into a season before winning a game was 1972-73, when they lost their first 15 games, according to STATS. The 76ers, who scored the last five points to avoid their largest loss ever, matched Utah's 0-8 start from a year ago. The last NBA team with a longer losing streak to begin a season was the New Jersey Nets during their record 0-18 start in 2009-10.

GRIZZLIES 111, KINGS 110

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Courtney Lee scored on a lob pass as time expired to cap a furious fourth-quarter rally, and Memphis came from 26 points down to beat Sacramento.

The outcome wasn't decided until after a lengthy review by officials who were trying to determine if the inbound pass from Vince Carter with less than a second left was tipped by the Kings, and also to determine if Lee got the shot off before the horn sounded.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 22 points and 11 assists, while Marc Gasol had 20 points. Lee's reverse layup gave him 16 points on 6-of-9 shooting.

Rudy Gay scored 25 points, while DeMarcus Cousins added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Kings, who lost their third straight.

WARRIORS 107, NETS 99

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Klay Thompson scored 25 points, Draymond Green had 17 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, and Golden State snapped a two-game losing streak by beating Brooklyn.

Stephen Curry added 17 points and five assists as the hot-shooting, turn-



Toronto Raptors center Jonas Valanciunas (17) and Chicago Bulls centre Pau Gasol vie for a rebound during the first half of an NBA basketball game Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, in Toronto.

Associated Press

over-prone Warriors slowly started to cut down on mistakes. They shot 45.6 percent from the floor and had just 11 turnovers.

Golden State entered the game leading the NBA in shooting percentage and turnovers.

Jarrett Jack scored 23

points against his former team, and Brook Lopez and Deron Williams each had 18 points as Brooklyn lost for the second time in two nights.

The Nets fell 112-104 at Phoenix on Wednesday to begin their three-game road trip. □

Canadiens beat Bruins to go top of East

The Associated Press

MONTREAL (AP) — Max Pacioretty had two goals, Dale Weiss scored on a penalty shot, and the Montreal Canadiens beat the rival Boston Bruins 5-1 on Thursday night for their fourth straight win.

Lars Eller and Jiri Sekac also scored for Montreal (12-4-1), which benefited from Sergei Gonchar's debut after he was acquired Tuesday in a trade with Dallas. Dougie Hamilton scored a power-play goal for Boston (10-8-0), which lost badly for a second game in a row after a 6-1 setback in Toronto on Wednesday night. The Bruins were playing a third game in four nights.

JETS 3, HURRICANES 1

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Blake Wheeler scored two goals and had an assist, and the Jets beat the Hurricanes. The Jets, who are in the middle of a five-game



Buffalo Sabres' Nicolas Deslauriers, left, shoves Minnesota Wild's Christian Folin after Folin checked Deslauriers into the boards during the third period of an NHL hockey game Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, in St. Paul, Minn. The Wild won 6-3.

Associated Press

road trip, won for the fifth time in seven games and bounced back from a shut-out loss. They've gone 7-1-2 in their last 10 games.

Carolina lost for the second time in three games since winning four straight.

Elias Lindholm scored Carolina's goal on the power

play.

Winnipeg backup goal-keeper Michael Hutchinson earned the win with 22 saves. Cam Ward finished with 34 saves.

AVALANCHE 4, RANGERS 3, SO

NEW YORK (AP) — Nathan MacKinnon scored the ty-

ing goal in the third period and then connected in the shootout as the Avalanche rallied for a victory over the Rangers.

MacKinnon started the tie-breaker with a goal, and Alex Tanguay added one in the third round.

Semyon Varlamov stopped Mats Zuccarello and then Lee Stempniak on the final attempt as Colorado won for the first time in three games on a four-game trip. Matt Duchene had a goal and assist, and Tanguay also scored for the Avalanche, who had dropped four of five.

Varlamov stopped 30 shots. Derek Stepan and Dan Girdi scored their first goals of the season 1:43 apart in the second period for the Rangers, who led 3-2 after trailing by a goal twice.

SHARKS 2, LIGHTNING 1

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Antti Niemi made 32 saves and

added an assist as the Sharks beat the Lightning.

Joe Thornton and Tyler Kennedy scored for the Sharks, who are 2-2 on a seven-game road trip. Niemi improved to 5-0-1 against the Lightning.

Tampa Bay got a goal from Steven Stamkos, and Ben Bishop stopped 37 shots. The Lightning are 0-1-1 since their six-game winning streak was snapped.

WILD 6, SABRES 3

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Nino Niederreiter had his first career three-goal game and backup goalie Niklas Backstrom stopped 25 shots as the Wild broke out of a scoring slump for a victory over the Sabres to snap a four-game skid.

The Wild have been missing leading scorer Zach Parise since Nov. 4.

He's out with a concussion and Minnesota scored just two goals in three straight losses without him. □

Clayton Kershaw, Mike Trout win MVP awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Clayton Kershaw became the first pitcher to win the National League Most Valuable Player award in nearly a half-century, coasting to an easy victory Thursday.

Mike Trout was a unanimous pick for the American League honor after finishing second the previous two years. The 23-year-old became the fifth-youngest MVP in major league history and the youngest unanimous selection.

Kershaw, the Los Angeles Dodgers ace, breezed past Miami slugger Giancarlo Stanton and Pittsburgh outfielder Andrew McCutchen for the NL award. Bob Gibson in 1968 was the previous pitcher to be the NL MVP. Detroit pitcher Justin Verlander won the AL MVP in 2011.

"To have people think you mean that much to your team, it really is a huge honor," Kershaw said on the MLB Network telecast. This time, the 26-year-old left hander's numbers again dominated hitters — Kershaw led the majors in wins and ERA while going 21-3 with a 1.77 ERA and throwing a no-hitter for the NL West champions.

Kershaw got 18 of 30 first-place votes and 355 points



These are 2014, file photos showing Los Angeles Dodgers Clayton Kershaw, left, and Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout. Already this year's Cy Young Award winner, Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw could become the first NL player to sweep the Most Valuable Player honor and the pitching prize in the same season since Bob Gibson in 1968. Mike Trout is the favorite for the AL MVP.

Associated Press

in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Stanton got eight first-place ballots and 298 points. He led the NL with 37 homers and was second with 105 RBIs, and missed the last 17 games for the fourth-place Marlins after being hit in the face by a fastball.

Six AL pitchers have won the MVP since Gibson took it for the St. Louis Cardinals. Before Gibson, seven pitch-

ers had won the NL MVP, a list that includes Hall of Famers Sandy Koufax, Carl Hubbell and Dizzy Dean.

The AL MVP has been won 12 times by pitchers, starting when it was first presented in 1931 to Lefty Grove. Kershaw won the major league season opener in Australia on March 22, then missed more than a month when a strained upper back put him on the disabled list for the first time in

his career.

Kershaw came back to win his second straight NL Cy Young and third in four years.

Featuring sharp breaking balls, Kershaw was the first pitcher to top the majors in ERA for four straight years.

The four-time All-Star struck out 239 in 198 1-3 innings. On June 18, he threw the first no-hitter of his career, at Dodger Stadium against Colorado.

Dodgers players have won 11 MVPs, led by Roy Campanella in 1951, '53 and '56. Also winning were Dolph Camilli (1941), Jackie Robinson (1949), Don Newcombe (1956), Maury Wills (1962), Koufax (1963), Steve Garvey (1974) and Kirk Gibson (1988).

Trout received all 30 first-place votes and 420 points. Detroit designated hitter Victor Martinez was second with 229 points and Cleveland outfielder Michael Brantley third with 185.

Trout hit .287 and set career highs in home runs (36) and RBIs (111) while leading the major leagues in runs with 115 and extra-base hits with 84. In his third full season, the Los Angeles Angels center fielder matched his bests in doubles (39) and triple (nine). He also was

MVP of the All-Star game in July.

"It's something special, for sure," Trout said. "If you would have told me this before the season started, I would have just laughed at you. It's just an unbelievable feeling."

Trout was a unanimous pick as the 2012 AL Rookie of the Year and was second in MVP voting to Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in both of his first two full seasons, 81 points back in 2012 and 103 points behind last year. He joined Mickey Mantle as the only players to win after finishing second twice in a row. At 23 years, 52 days on the final day of the regular season, Trout is younger than all MVPs except Vida Blue (1971), Johnny Bench (1970), Stan Musial (1943) and Cal Ripken Jr. (1983), according to STATS. Musial, Bench and Blue were 22, and Ripken was 23 years, 39 days.

He is the third Angels player to win after Don Baylor (1979) and Vladimir Guerrero (2004).

Kershaw and Trout won the last of baseball's major postseason awards.

Just in time, too. Pitchers and catchers are due at spring training in only 98 days. □



Seattle Seahawks' Richard Sherman, right, trades jerseys with Oakland Raiders' Charles Woodson after an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2014, in Seattle. The Seahawks won 30-24.

Associated Press

Continued from Page 17

"Sports betting should be brought out of the underground and into the sunlight where it can be appropriately monitored and regulated." Gambling has been a scourge of

U.S. sports at least since eight members of the Chicago White Sox were banished for fixing the 1919 World Series. NFL stars Paul Hornung and Alex Karras were suspended

for gambling in 1963, and Pete Rose was given a lifetime ban from baseball in 1989 — all in the interest of protecting the integrity of the games. But like other businesses struggling to adapt to the internet age, sports leagues are realizing that rules written for the backroom bookies of a Marlon Brando film don't quite fit when gambling takes place on well-financed sites that come bearing multimillion dollar sponsorship checks.

After decades of strictly avoiding any form of gambling, the NFL in 2009 gave teams permission to sign licensing deals with state-sponsored lotteries. More recently, leagues have embraced fantasy sports websites that allow fans to risk real money on what happens during games — but not

on their outcomes. (Only Nevada allows betting on the outcome of games; a move to allow it in New Jersey is being fought by the pro sports leagues.)

The fantasy sports websites deny that they are in the gambling business, claiming they are less a game of chance like roulette than a game of skill where a player's knowledge gives him an edge — a definition of gambling that would exclude many card games and much of what goes on the golf course, among friends. Leagues are happy to go along with this definition, and it's easy to see why: Not only do fantasy sports keep fans following the game, the sponsorship deals — and, in the NBA's case, an ownership stake in FanDuel — bring in cash for ever-

thirsty leagues.

"Fantasy games have long been considered legal and distinct from sports betting," Sal LaRocca, NBA President of Global Operations and Merchandising said in an email. "One-day fantasy is a popular and legal way for fans to further connect with our game." Likewise, when Seattle Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman tweeted an endorsement of a one-week, pay \$10 to win \$5,000 league at FanDuel, NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy dismissed the suggestion that it was an endorsement of gambling. "It's fantasy football," he said.

Many states draw a similar distinction in deciding what gambling to ban, and the 2006 federal law that prohibited online gambling included an exception for fantasy sports. □

AT&T stops adding Web tracking codes on cellphones

JACK GILLUM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — AT&T Mobility, the second-largest U.S. cellular provider, said Friday it is no longer attaching hidden Internet tracking codes to data transmitted from its users' smartphones. The practice made it nearly impossible to shield its subscribers' identities online.

The change by AT&T essentially removes a hidden string of letters and numbers that are passed along to websites that a consumer visits. It can be used to track subscribers across the Internet, a lucrative data-mining opportunity for advertisers that could still reveal users' identities based on their browsing habits.

Verizon Wireless, the country's largest mobile firm, said Friday it still uses this type of tracking, known as "super cookies." Verizon spokeswoman Debra Lewis said business and government customers don't have the code inserted. There has been no evidence that Sprint and T-Mobile have used such codes.

"As with any program, we're constantly evaluating, and this is no different," Lewis said, adding that consumers can ask that their codes not be used for advertising tracking. But that still passes along the codes to websites, even if



In this May 14, 2014 file photo, an AT&T logo on a store in Dedham, Mass.

subscribers say they don't want their data being used for marketing purposes.

The tracking codes are part of the latest plan by the cellular industry to keep tabs on users and their devices. While the codes don't explicitly contain personal information, they're unique and nonetheless sent to websites alongside personal details that a user may submit voluntarily — like a name or a phone number. That means enough data can transform a large chunk of random digits into a digital fingerprint that's as identifying as a government pension system number. AT&T said Friday its tracker was part of a

testing project that's been phased off of its network.

"This is more like a license plate for your brain," said Jacob Hoffman-Andrews, a senior staff technologist with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties organization that opposed the practice. "Everything you wonder about, and read, and ask the Internet about gets this header attached to it. And there are ad agencies out there that try to associate that browsing history with anything that identifies you."

For mobile users, the quest for online privacy isn't easy. Even if subscribers wanted to switch service providers to what they think is a

more privacy-friendly carrier, they would likely be slapped with hundreds of dollars in early termination fees before leaving.

The magazines *Wired* and *Forbes* first reported last month that Verizon and AT&T were inserting the tracking numbers, even if their subscribers wanted to opt out.

The investigative website ProPublica also discovered that Twitter's advertising arm was using Verizon's tracking codes, which could be used to build a dossier about a person's behavior on mobile devices.

Some cell providers already collect and store the

approximate location of their subscribers' phones, according to government documents from 2010. That has raised alarm among privacy advocates, who fear government investigators can obtain such personal data and even track Americans' movements without their knowledge or consent.

Consumers' interest in privacy and their digital anonymity has intensified in recent years, following revelations by former National Security Agency analyst Edward Snowden. Top secret NSA documents he leaked to journalists revealed the NSA was collecting the phone records and digital communications of millions of citizens not suspected of a crime, prompting congressional reform.

On Thursday, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the U.S. Marshals Service was flying airplanes above American cities to secretly collect certain cellphone information from criminals while incidentally gathering data from innocent Americans. The Justice Department would not confirm the practice, but said in a statement Friday the Marshals Service "does not maintain any databases for the purposes of retaining cellphone information of the general public." □

Associated Press

BlackBerry expanding its mobile-security arsenal

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — BlackBerry is expanding its efforts to sell mobile-security software on its rivals' smartphones and tablets to help counter the waning popularity of its own devices.

As part of its strategy outlined Thursday in San Francisco, BlackBerry unveiled several upgrades to its mobile security weapons and a partnership with smartphone market leader Samsung Electronics.

Many of the security features will protect smartphones running on operat-

ing systems made by Apple Inc., Google Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

BlackBerry CEO John Chen is counting on the increased emphasis on mobile security to help the Canadian company to double its annual software revenue to about \$500 million.

The security arsenal is designed to help businesses and government agencies protect their employees' smartphones from malicious software and other hacking attacks that can steal confidential informa-

tion.

Investors signaled their approval of the plan by driving up BlackBerry's stock 92 cents, or 8 percent, to \$12.19 in Thursday afternoon trading.

As part of the companies' new alliance, Samsung plans to offer key pieces of BlackBerry's security software to corporate customers whose employees work on Galaxy phones and tablets, which run Google's Android operating system. Competition from Android phones and Apple's iPhones, which debuted in



BlackBerry CEO John Chen holds up a Classic phone, which will be released Dec. 17, during the BlackBerry Enterprise Portfolio Launch event Thursday, Nov. 13, 2014, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

2007, has hobbled BlackBerry.

As the iPhone's touchscreen technology and other easy-to-use features caught on, BlackBerry

stuck with the physical keyboards on its smartphones and didn't quickly develop a system to accommodate apps made by outside developers. □



Traders Daniel Kryger, left, and Christopher Morie work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. — Stocks ended mostly higher on Friday as major indexes extended gains for a fourth week in a row, a rare stretch for this year.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Stocks end mostly up; 4th week of gains

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks ended mostly higher on Friday as major indexes extended gains for a fourth week in a row, a rare stretch for this year.

After flitting between tiny gains and losses for most of the day, the Standard and Poor's 500 index rose just two-hundredths of one percent to close at a record high. The Dow Jones industrial average ended slightly lower, but the losses were limited by a gain in energy shares, which have been falling sharply in recent months as oil prices drop.

As of Friday, the S&P 500 is up 10 percent so far this year.

"The market has continued to surprise me with its strength," said Uri Landesman, president of Platinum Partners, an investment fund in New York. "It's been almost a six-year party ... and it takes a lot to upset that momentum."

The S&P 500 rose 0.49 points to 2,039.82. The Dow slipped 18.05 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,634.74. The Nasdaq composite rose 8.4 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,688.54.

Stocks have been mostly rising since Oct. 15, when the S&P 500 nearly fell into a "correction," a trading term for a drop of 10 per-

cent or more from a recent peak. Generally strong corporate earnings results and solid U.S. economic data have lifted shares sharply since then.

On Friday, investors got more good economic news. The Commerce Department reported that retail sales rose 0.3 percent in October after a drop in September. The reversal, though modest, was interpreted by some market experts as evidence that recent job gains and lower gas prices are lifting spirits as the holiday shopping season begins.

"American consumers are starting to spend again," said John Manley, chief stock strategist at Wells Fargo Funds, which manages \$250 billion. "More people are working ... and that makes us a little freer at the cash registers."

Six of the S&P 500 index's 10 industry sectors rose for day, led by an 0.8 percent gain in energy shares. Energy stocks had fallen 10 percent in three months as the price of crude plummeted to a four-year low.

Among the highlights of the day, Virgin America, an airline backed by billionaire Richard Branson, soared 30 percent in its initial public offering.

For the week, the S&P 500 and the Dow closed up about a third of percent-

age point, their fourth week of gains. The only better performance this year was a five-week run started in early August.

Among stocks making moves:

— Nordstrom rose 92 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$74.17 after the high-end retailer reported earnings that topped financial analysts' expectations.

— Hertz Global Holdings sank 5 percent after announcing it needs to restate its financial results for 2012 and 2013. The car-rental company fell \$1.04 to \$21.69.

The price of oil posted its biggest gain in two months on concerns over Libyan output and strong retail sales in the U.S. that raised expectations for demand. Benchmark U.S. crude rose \$1.61 to close at \$75.82 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, a benchmark for international oils used by many U.S. refineries, rose \$1.92 to \$79.41 on the ICE Futures exchange in London.

In other energy futures trading on the NYMEX:

— Wholesale gasoline rose 4.1 cents to close at \$2.043 a gallon.

— Heating oil rose 5.4 cents to close at \$2.416 a gallon.

— Natural gas rose 4.3 cents to close at \$4.022 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Microsoft surpasses Exxon as 2nd most valuable company

BRANDON BAILEY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

The bull run in Microsoft's stock this past year has helped the tech giant surpass Exxon Mobil and seize the rank of the second most valuable company, behind Apple Inc.

Under new CEO Satya Nadella, Microsoft has worked to overcome its reputation as a clumsy behemoth struggling to keep up with new tech trends and consumer habits. Nadella has cut expenses — and jobs — while pledging to refocus the company on mobile technology and cloud computing. His efforts have fueled a stock surge that drove Microsoft's total market value above \$410 billion on Friday. That leapfrogged Exxon's value of \$404 billion, which has

\$668 billion. That's more than the \$616 billion that Microsoft was worth when it was No. 1 in December 1999. Microsoft shares fell sharply the next year.

But the Redmond, Washington company has earned greater cachet on Wall Street over the last 18 months. Its stock has risen nearly 70 percent since April 2013, when activist investment firm ValueAct Capital announced it had taken a \$2 billion stake in the company and would scrutinize its strategy. Within a few months, longtime CEO Steve Ballmer announced plans to retire. The move was described as unrelated.

Since then, Nadella has announced new initiatives to expand in cloud computing, which promises to be more lucrative than the



This photo shows the Microsoft Corp. logo on an exterior wall of a new Microsoft store inside the Prudential Center mall, in Boston. Microsoft has climbed past Exxon Mobil to become the second most valuable company, behind Apple Inc., according to reports, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

been dinged by the drop in oil prices.

"Microsoft has made a strategic change," said Daniel Ives, a tech analyst at FBR Capital Markets. He said Nadella still faces challenges with a company that's heavily reliant on the declining personal computer market. But compared with other longtime tech stalwarts, such as IBM, Hewlett-Packard and Oracle, "Microsoft has done the best job of trying to skate where the puck is going," Ives said. Apple is currently the world's most valuable company, with a market capitalization of more than

traditional model of selling software that is installed on clients' computers. Microsoft has also promised a redesign of its flagship Windows operating system and released versions of other popular software for smartphones and tablets, including devices made by competitor Apple.

Microsoft shares have outperformed the tech-heavy NASDAQ Composite Index, which gained about 45 percent in the same 18-month period. The stock hit \$50.04 on Friday, its highest point since early 2000, before slipping to the \$49.50 range in afternoon trading.

American business inventories up 0.3 percent

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

U.S. businesses added to their stockpiles at a faster rate in September, though sales remained weak.

Business inventories increased 0.3 percent in September following a tiny 0.1 percent rise in August, the Commerce Department reported Friday. The August increase was the weakest showing in more than a year. Sales were flat in Sep-

tember after having fallen 0.5 percent in August.

The weakness in sales may have made businesses more cautious about restocking their shelves until they see more evidence of rising demand. When companies add goods to their stockpiles, it typically reflects optimism about future demand.

Reductions in inventory restocking can be a sign of uneasiness about future sales. A rise in inventories at

a time of falling sales can be a sign of involuntary inventory building.

But in a hopeful sign for the future, the government said in a separate report Friday that retail sales showed a modest rebound in October, rising by 0.3 percent after a September decline. The inventories report showed that stockpiles held by wholesalers were up 0.6 percent in September, while manufacturers saw a 0.1 percent rise in

inventories. Merchandise held by retailers fell by 0.2 percent.

Inventory changes can have a big impact on the economy. In the April-June quarter, faster inventory building by businesses accounted for 1.4 percentage points of the 4.6 percent annual growth rate. In the July-September period, inventory building slowed, which subtracted 0.6 percentage point from growth.

The economy still posted a healthy growth rate of 3.5 percent in the July-September period.

Many economists believe growth will remain at a solid pace around 3 percent in the current October-December quarter and for all of 2015.

The optimism is based in part on the sustained gains that have been made in hiring and in driving the unemployment rate lower.

Virgin America shares jump in public-trading debut

DAVID KOENIG

AP Airlines Writer

Virgin America made a successful takeoff in its public trading debut Friday.

The shares opened at \$27, \$4 higher than the price that the airline set, and were trading up 34 percent at \$30.83 by early afternoon.

The timing of the IPO by the Richard Branson-backed airline could hardly be better.

Airlines stocks have soared as the carriers reap huge profits thanks to full planes, rising revenue and falling fuel prices. After years of losing money, Virgin America is now profitable.

The airline priced the shares at \$23, near the middle of its announced range of \$21 to \$24 each, and raised more than \$300 million before expenses. The ticker symbol is "VA."

Virgin America Inc. started flying in 2007 with the goal of being low-cost but

high-flair. Its Airbus jets feature mood lighting, leather seats and seatback touch screens for watching TV,

ordering drinks or chatting with passengers in other rows.

The airline scores well in

traveler surveys but lost money for six years until earning \$10 million in 2013. It is hobbled by limited des-

tinations and a thin schedule. Virgin carried about 6 million passengers last year — less than 6 percent of the crowd that flew on Southwest Airlines. And Virgin's key transcontinental service faces stiff competition from American, Delta, United and JetBlue, which are chasing the same lucrative business travelers with amenities such as lie-flat seats.

In an interview Friday, CEO David Cush said he was confident that his airline would compete on those key routes and said that having a lie-flat bed on a 5-hour cross-country flight was overrated.

Branson's Virgin Group remains a minority stockholder. The billionaire's empire suffered a setback last month when a test-flight accident destroyed Virgin Galactic's SpaceShipTwo, designed to carry tourists into space for \$250,000 each.



David Cush, center, President & CEO of Virgin America, is poses for a photo with his team members in Times Square after he rang the opening bell at the Nasdaq MarketSite, to mark his company's IPO, in New York, Friday, Nov. 14, 2014. The shares opened at \$27 \$4 higher than the price that the airline set and then jumped as high as \$29.74 within about an hour of the opening bell.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

FibroGen climbs, NeuroDerm skids in market debuts

NEW YORK (AP) — Companies got a mixed reception Friday as shares of FibroGen surged while shares of NeuroDerm and Landmark Infrastructure sank.

Biotechnology company FibroGen expanded its initial public offering to 8.1 million shares and said the IPO priced at \$18 a share, bringing in \$145.8 million before expenses and discounts. In midday trading, its stock jumped \$4.15, or

23.1 percent, to \$22.15. The shares are trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "FGEN."

FibroGen Inc. is developing treatments for anemia and fibrotic conditions, or diseases that cause scarring and lead to organ failure. The San Francisco company had expected to sell 7.1 million shares for \$16 to \$19 each. The underwriters of its IPO will have the option to buy another 1.2 million

shares.

Landmark Infrastructure Partners LP said its offering of 2.7 million units priced at \$19 each, raising \$50.4 million. The company based in El Segundo, California, had expected to sell 3 million units for \$19 to \$21 each. Landmark is a partnership formed by Landmark Dividend LLC to own cell towers, billboards and leased property.

Its common units are trad-

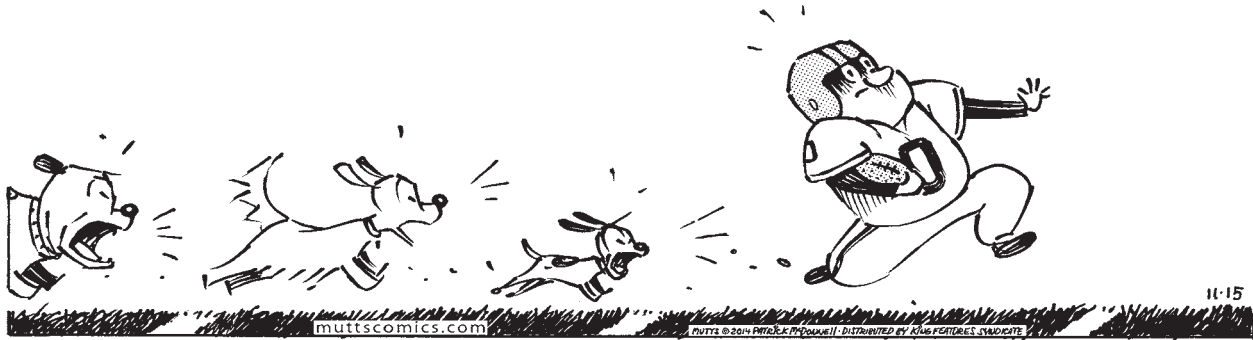
ing on the Nasdaq under the symbol "LMRK," and they slipped 48 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$18.52.

The underwriters of the IPO will have the option to buy another 397,500 units. The IPO of Israeli drug developer NeuroDerm Ltd. raised \$45 million, as the offering of 4.5 million units priced far below expectations at \$10 per share. The stock fell \$1.51, or 15.6 percent, to \$8.45 in midday

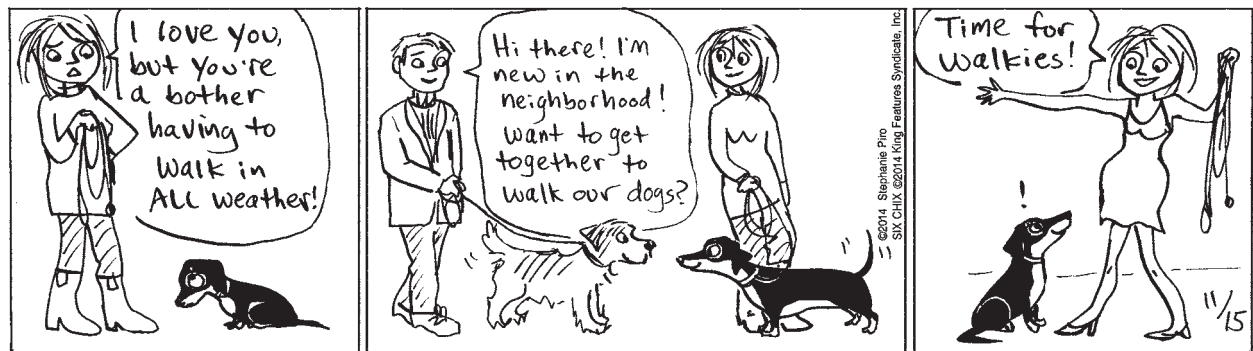
trading.

NeuroDerm is developing drugs that treat diseases of the central nervous system, including a slow-release form of the Parkinson's disease drug levodopa that would let patients take the medication continuously. The company had expected its stock to start at \$13 to \$16 per share. The shares are trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "NDRM."

Mutts



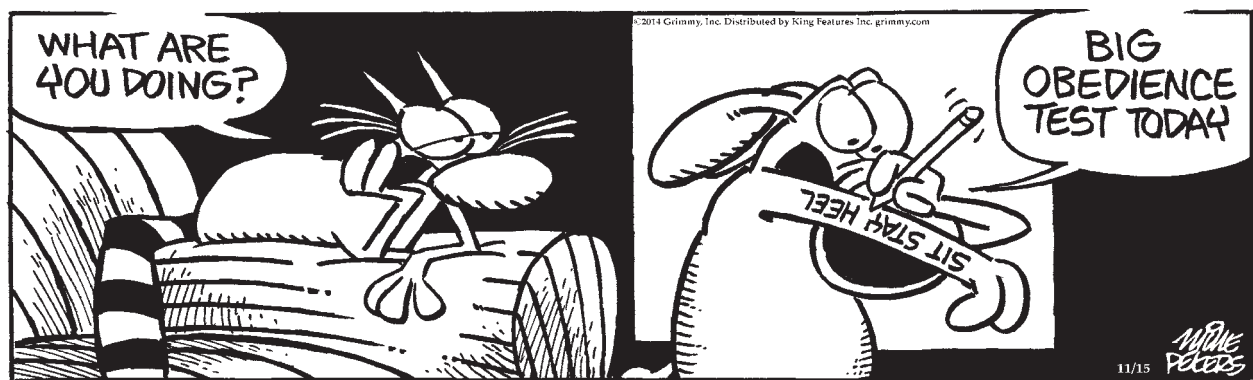
6 Chix



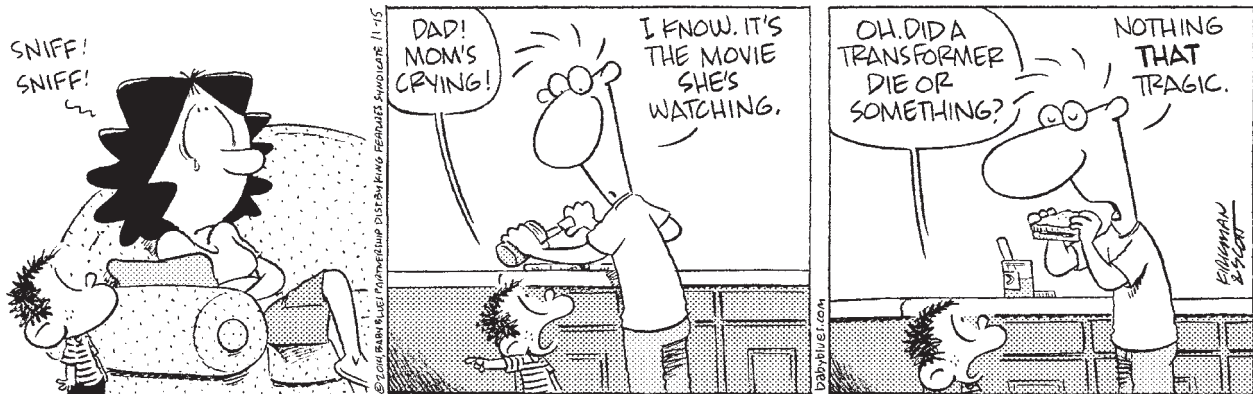
Blondie



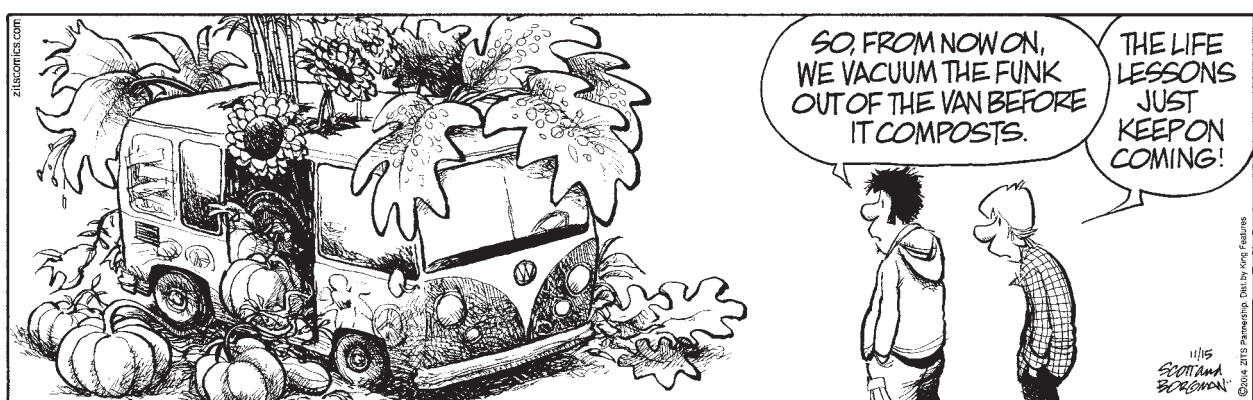
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

				7				
		9		2		6		
6			3		4			1
		5		9		7		
8	6						2	5
		4		3		8		
9			4		2			3
		1		5		4		
				6				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 11/15

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	4	9	2	7	8	1	5	6
7	2	8	5	1	6	4	9	3
6	5	1	9	3	4	2	8	7
4	9	6	7	2	3	5	1	8
5	8	3	4	6	1	7	2	9
2	1	7	8	5	9	6	3	4
1	7	4	3	9	5	8	6	2
9	6	2	1	8	7	3	4	5
8	3	5	6	4	2	9	7	1

- ACROSS
- Freeway entrance
 - Play a banjo
 - Therefore
 - Smell
 - Amphitheater
 - the line; obeyed
 - More than a few
 - Earlier
 - Huge bird from Australia
 - Garden tools
 - Digs for ore
 - halfway; compromises with
 - Month for carols; abbr.
 - Scissors
 - Newark, New

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24					25			
26				27					28			
29				30					31			
32				33					34			
35				36					37			
38				39					40			
41				42					43			
44				45					46			
47				48					49			
50				51					52			
53				54					55			
56				57					58			
59				60					61			
62				63					64			

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews 11/15/14

Friday's Puzzle Solved

ADORE	UMPS	ACTS
BIDEN	NOAH	REAL
EVENT	DONE	GATE
DESERTER	AMUSED	
GEAR	PRIMERS	
SQUEAK	ISLE	
OUR	TENSE	ENACT
WIGS	NEHRU	TILE
SPEAK	RESTS	MUD
LEEDS	TEASES	
PESTERS	BERT	
RECIPE	MARITIME	
IRON	CROC	OUTER
SITE	TURK	UNSER
MESS	SEES	SEATS

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- Very important
- Use a crowbar
- Wooden shoes
- Joyce Kilmer's famous poem
- TKO declarers
- One in Mexico
- Spoil
- Moral principles
- Reddish horse
- Autry or Wilder
- Chances
- board; nail filer
- His and
- Breaks a fast
- 52 cards
- Jacuzzis
- Breaks into a computer
- Jack's hill-climbing friend
- Stretchiness
- Alpine goatherd song
- Farce; pretense
- Fido's foot
- Grow weary
- Cut short

- DOWN
- Italy's capital
 - First lady's mate

Health care

Continued from page 8

Also, several of his Cabinet members have talked about it at stops around the country and the first lady, Michelle Obama, discussed it in calls Friday with health care providers and young adults.

The online exchanges - 13 run by individual states as well as the federal marketplace, HealthCare.gov, serving the rest of the nation - will offer 25 percent more plans this year overall, according to the Obama administration. That means consumers will have more choices, but may also need to spend more time combing through them.

Most people who have already signed up can have their plans automatically renewed if they take no action. But the Obama administration is encouraging them to shop around because with all the new options, they may find a better deal. Many low- and moderate-income people who qualified for federal subsidies, to decrease the cost of their premiums, could see the value of those sub-

sidies drop if they keep the same plan.

That is because the price of the "benchmark" plan, which the subsidies are pegged to, has dropped in many markets.

In deciding whether to re-enroll, the seven million people who already have marketplace coverage will, in effect, be passing judgment on the Affordable Care Act and the options it offers.

"A failure to re-enroll might suggest that with a year's experience, they feel that even their subsidized premiums were not worth the benefit they received," said Robert D. Reischauer, a health policy expert and former director of the Congressional Budget Office.

Reischauer predicted that if this enrollment period went well, the Affordable Care Act would be accepted as a permanent part of the social safety net.

But if there are serious problems, he said, "that will throw more logs on the fire and continue to undermine the public's belief that government can provide complex services in an efficient way."

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Oceanview \$9k
Oceanfront \$14.500k
3 BEDRM OV \$17k

Marriott Aruba Ocean club

GOLD Season
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2B Oceanfront \$14500
1B Oceanfront \$8500

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Paradise Villas

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Paradise Villas

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pa Prohimo

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Women in Difficulties

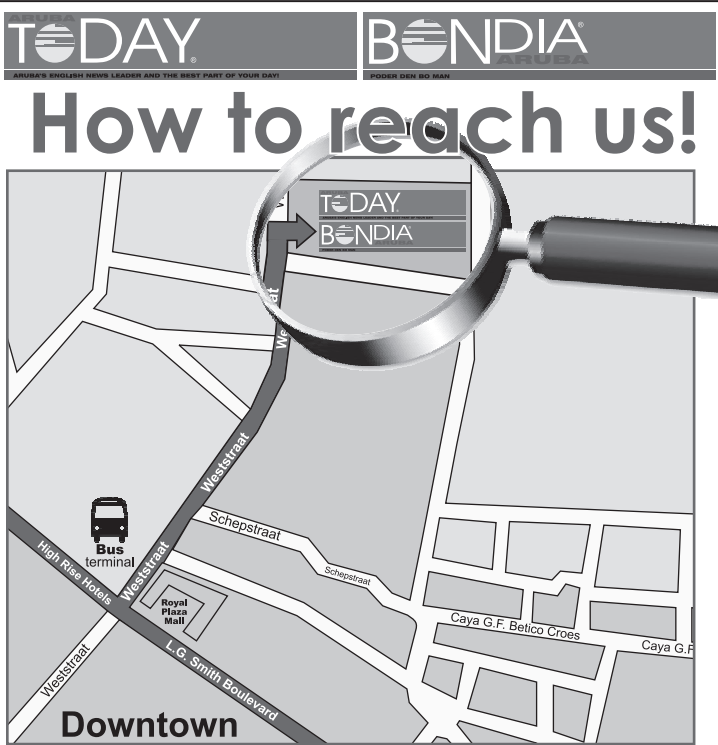
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Latrines, sewers show varied ancient Roman diet

FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

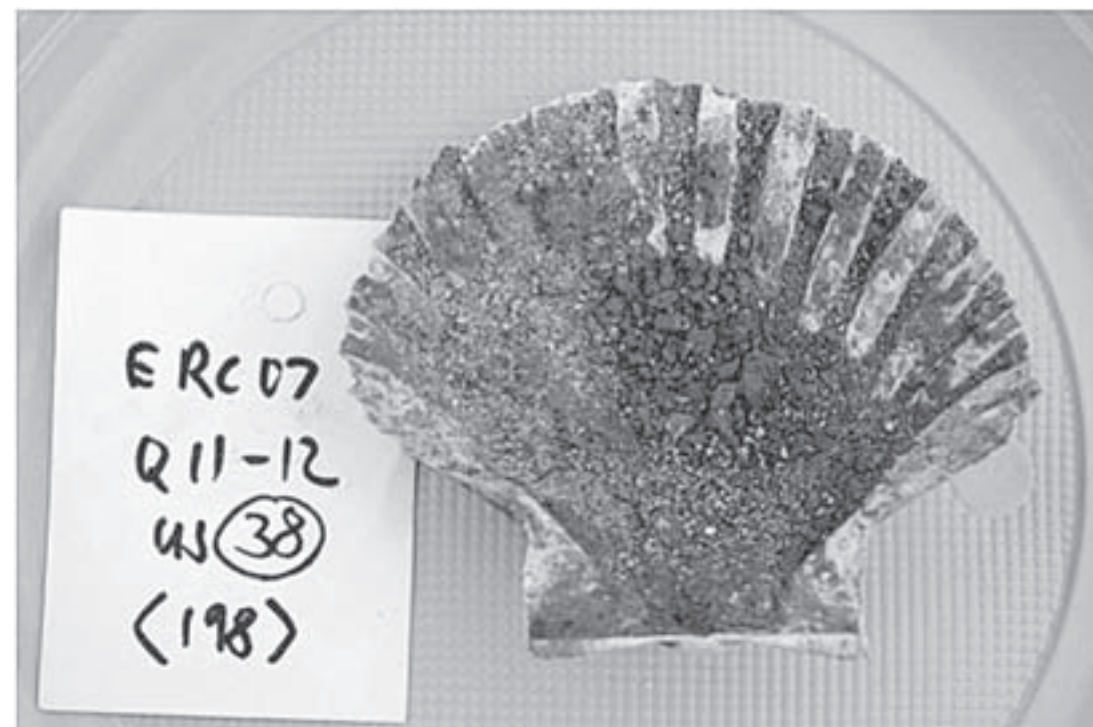
ROME (AP) — Archaeologists picking through latrines, sewers, cesspits and trash dumps at Pompeii and Herculaneum have found tantalizing clues to an apparently varied diet there before the eruption of Mount Vesuvius destroyed those Roman cities in 79 A.D.

Much of what residents didn't digest or left on their plates went down into latrine holes, became remnants in cesspits built up over the centuries or was thrown away in local dumps. At a three-day conference ending Friday in Rome, archaeologists discussed their discoveries, including gnawed-on fish bones and goose eggshells that were possibly ancient delicacies for the elite.

"We just have small glimpses of the environment, but some are quite curious," Mark Robinson, a professor of environmental archaeology at Oxford University Museum of Natural History, told the conference.

Here's some of the curiosities the experts discussed: ROMANS LIKED EATING LOCAL

Much of what the inhabitants ate was local. Archaeologists noted that some types of mollusk shells found in the sewers of Herculaneum came from the ancient town's beach. Notable exceptions include grain, which was likely imported from Egypt; dates from the Middle East and northern Africa; and pepper spice from India. Although flour left no traces across such a long time, grain weevils apparently survived the milling process, ending up in a Herculaneum sewer that served a block of shops and home.



In this undated photo provided by Mark Robinson, environmental archeologist at Oxford University Museum of Natural History, a scallop shell with makeup found in a sewer of Herculaneum.

Associated Press

laneum sewer that served a block of shops and home.

PORK PLEASED ROMAN PALATES THEN AND NOW Today's Romans are big on pork — pork slices known as porchetta are a popular filling for lunchtime sandwiches. Trash dumps from roughly the 1st century B.C. and the early 1st century A.D. in the Pompeii neighborhood of Porta Stabia yielded an abundance of pig bones, a sure sign that pork was popular then, noted Michael MacKinnon from the University of Winnipeg. Particularly tasty mollusks known as telline were popular on ancient tables; now telline as an ingredient for a seafood sauce is a much sought-after item on present-day Roman menus.

A CHICKEN IN EVERY POT? That's not clear but lots of chicken eggs were consumed, judging by the numerous pieces of eggshell

found. Erica Rowan, an archaeologist at the University of Exeter who worked on the Herculaneum sewer,

also reported finding two fragments of goose egg shell, possibly the remnants of a meal consumed by the elite. But for the most part, it appeared that both rich and not-so-rich Romans in these cities ate much the same food, especially fish.

HORS D'OEUVRES FOR THE DEITIES Being buried for centuries in the sewers and cesspits helped preserve food traces — Vesuvius' eruption also carbonized some food for posterity. Bite-sized, carbonized, cake-like breads — "nibbles for the gods" is how Robinson referred to them — were discovered at a disused kiln in Pompeii. Pieces of votive cups were also found, prompting archaeologists to view the nibbles as possible offerings to ancient Roman deities. □

Philae probe drills into comet, turns toward light

GEIR MOULSON

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The spacecraft that landed on a comet performed two tricky maneuvers Friday, by drilling into the rocky surface and rotating itself to catch more sunlight. Both operations carried considerable risks, because they could have toppled the probe or push it out into the void. But without them the Philae lander that scored a historic first by touching down on a comet Wednesday risked skipping a key scientific experiment and running out of battery. Scientists at the European Space Agency said the maneuvers appeared to have worked.

"My rotation was successful (35 degrees). Looks like a whole new comet from this angle," read a message posted on the lander's official Twitter account. Earlier, the scientists tweeted: "First comet drilling is a fact!"

Since landing on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko some 311 million miles (500 million kilometers) away, the lander has performed a series of tests and sent reams of data, including photos, back to Earth.

But with just two or three days of power in its primary battery, the lander has to rely on solar panels to generate electricity after that. Scientists were concerned to find Thursday that not only had Philae unexpectedly bounced twice before coming to rest untethered to the surface, but photos indicated it was next to a cliff that largely blocked sunlight from reaching two of its three solar panels.

"Maybe the battery will be empty before we contact again," said Stephan Ulamec, head of operations for Philae, said earlier Friday. With time running out, scientists decided to risk moving the lander and performing one of the most important experiments it was sent into space for. Material beneath the surface of the comet has remained almost unchanged for 4.5 billion years, making the mining samples a cosmic time capsule that scientists are eager to study.

Mission controllers said Philae was able to bore 25 centimeters (10 inches) into the comet to start collecting the samples, but it's unclear whether it has enough power to deliver any information on them. It also wasn't immediately clear whether the rotation had succeeded in putting the lander's solar panels out of the shadow. Scientists are likely to know for sure early Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Rosetta — Philae's mother ship, which is streaking through space in tandem with the comet — will use its 11 instruments to analyze the comet over the coming months. Scientists hope the \$1.6 billion (1.3 billion-euro) project that was launched a decade ago will help them answer questions about the origins of the universe and life on Earth. □



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Patty Duke to play twins on Disney Channel show

SANDY COHEN

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Patty Duke is playing twins on TV again, this time as a pair of grandmas on the Disney Channel.

The 67-year-old actress will guest star on an upcoming episode of "Liv and Maddie," which follows twin sisters played by actress Dove Cameron.

Duke said her grandchildren are fans of the show, and while she never expected to play twins again, she felt a twinge of jealousy when she saw Cameron doing it.

"I won't lie," Duke said. "When (the show) came on the air, there was a part of me that said, 'I want to do that!'"

Duke famously played "identical cousins" on her namesake sitcom that

aired in the early 1960s.

Producers of "Liv and Maddie" said they were inspired by Duke's show and long hoped she'd appear on theirs. Cameron studied all three seasons of "The Patty Duke Show" to prepare for her roles as twins, and said she cried when she learned she'd be working with Duke.

"There's really only one model for this show," Cameron said. "I didn't want to mess it up! I didn't want to offend her."

Duke, who has continued to collect acting credits annually, said it was initially tough playing twins again, especially since one of her characters is pretending to be the other.

But with Cameron and the writers' help, she found her groove.

The episode will air next



This photo provided by Disney Channel shows Patty Duke in a scene from the episode, "Grandma-A-Rooney" on the television series, "Liv and Maddie."

Associated Press

year.

Shooting twins for TV hasn't changed much in the 50 years since Duke's show ran, the actresses said. They still use body doubles and static sets, shooting everything twice so the

actress can portray each twin. Only there are four cameras on "Liv and Maddie," compared to just one when Duke's show was shot.

The two actresses loved sharing the set.

"They say you should never meet your heroes," Cameron said, "but she's gone from a hero to a really, really great friend and mentor." Duke said simply: "It is an awesome experience." □



New screenwriters honored with Nicholl awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)

— Five screenwriters new to Hollywood have already earned the film academy's stamp of approval.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented its annual Nicholl Fellowships in Screenwriting Thursday at its Beverly Hills, California, headquarters. The winning screenplays were chosen from more than 7,500 submissions.

Four screenplays were selected: "The Science of Love and Laughter" by

Sam Baron of Cambridge, U.K.; "United States of (Expletive) Awesome" by Alisha Brophy of Los Angeles and Scott Miles of Austin, Texas;

"The Death Engine" by Melissa Iqbal of London; and "Moonflower" by Sallie West of Charleston, South Carolina.

Winners receive \$35,000 and guidance from academy members as they complete a feature-length screenplay during their fellowship year. □

Mbatha-Raw says 'Beyond' film shows power of self



In this Oct. 30, 2014 file photo, Gugu Mbatha-Raw arrives at the BAFTA Los Angeles Britannia Awards at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

MARCELA IZASA

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — British actress Gugu Mbatha-Raw has had a busy 2014.

Earlier this year, she starred in "Belle," based on a true story about a mixed-race woman who was raised in

British aristocracy in the 18th century. Now, the 31-year-old actress has transformed herself into a hot new pop star in "Beyond the Lights," which was released on Friday.

Mbatha-Raw studied the likes of Beyoncé, Rihanna

and Katy Perry to transform into her character Noni for the indie drama, directed by Gina Price-Bythewood. The story exposes the dark aspects of fame and pressures of oversexualization encountered by some female artists. □

James Gandolfini enters New Jersey Hall of Fame

WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

ASBURY PARK, New Jersey

(AP) — New Jersey inducted the late “Sopranos” star James Gandolfini into its Hall of Fame on Thursday.

Six cast members of the hit HBO drama were on hand as Gandolfini, who played mob boss Tony Soprano, was honored, as much for his love of the state as for his TV fame.

“Hey, J stands for Jersey and for Jimmy,” said Vincent Pastore, who played mobster Salvatore “Big Pussy” Bonpensiero. “Jimmy should be remembered for his work, for his love of his family and for his compulsion to let people know how great New Jersey is. It was beyond perfect that he played a mob boss from New Jersey.”

Gandolfini was a Westwood native. He graduated from Rutgers University and won three Emmy awards for his portrayal of



In this Nov. 26, 2012 file photo, actor James Gandolfini attends a special screening of “Killing Them Softly” at the SVA Theater in New York.

the neurotic north Jersey mob boss who ran his business with an iron fist but saw a shrink to deal with his anxieties. He died in Italy last year at age 51.

Aida Turturro, who played

Tony's sister Janice, said Gandolfini had “the biggest, most sweetest heart ever. He was a true friend. I was his sister in many ways.”

Tony Sirico, who played mobster Paulie Walnuts,

said Gandolfini has already copped the ultimate accolade. Looking up toward the sky, Sirico said, “Jimmy's already in the Hall of Fame, whether you know it or not.”

Associated Press

“He was a great guy with a big heart,” Sirico said. “And he was all man. He was a good soul.”

Gandolfini's widow, Deborah Lin, said he truly loved where he was from.

“He was very proud to be from New Jersey,” she said. “His happiest moments were always in New Jersey.”

And the only Jersey boss more powerful than Tony Soprano gave his blessing to Gandolfini.

“God bless you, Jimmy,” said rocker Bruce Springsteen, a surprise presenter at the ceremony in the seaside town he helped put on the rock ‘n’ roll map. Other inductees into the New Jersey Hall of Fame included women's rights crusader Elizabeth Cady Stanton, jazz great Dizzy Gillespie, chef Alice Waters, author Dorothy Parker, basketball great Patrick Ewing, The Shirelles, former Gov. Jim Florio. □

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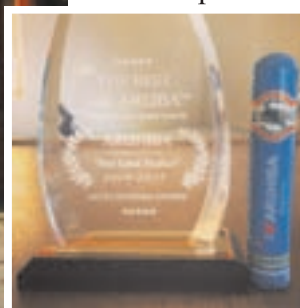
ORANJESTAD- Benjamin Petrocchi, a true native Aruban started the newest export product of Aruba, locally produced hand rolled cigars called “Aruhiba”. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrocchi always had a interest in the cigar business and has also sold Premium Cuban Cigars, and now he is growing his own tobacco crops. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba, he started his own production and cultivation of Aruhiba Cigars in Aruba. The whole process took him 10 years to perfect. Petrocchi dedication to the cigars is important for the moulding and process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. Their handmade cigar box is specially designed with their “Aruhiba” logo. Petrocchi considers

Aruhiba as a promotion for Aruba through its fine cigars. The company sells Aruhiba to the international markets as well. Visit their retail store located in front of the Historic Dutch Windmill in front of the RIO Hotel, with any purchase of \$20 and up you receive a free “Aruhiba” cigar or ask for their gift box of 5 cigars get 1 FREE for only \$37. They open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am till 6:30 pm and on Sundays from 10 am to 4 pm. Aruhiba cigars are now available at the gift stores in your resort and at well-known cigar stores. For their complete selection and attractive by the box prices visit their retail store. Tours are also



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The Agency Moment



DAVID BROOKS
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George Eliot was an emotionally needy young woman. Throughout her 20s, she fell for a series of inappropriate and unavailable men, craving their affection. At one point, she got herself involved in a bizarre tangle with an editor and two other women. It was like a tragic farce as the women competed for his sympathy, complete with shifting alliances, slammed doors and storms of tears.

In 1852, at age 32, she fell in love with the philosopher Herbert Spencer, the only one of the men who was close to her intellectual equal. Spencer liked her company but could not overcome his own narcissism and her lack of beauty. In July that year, she wrote him a bold letter.

"Those who have known me best have already said that if ever I loved any one thoroughly, my whole life must turn upon that feeling, and I find they said truly," she declared.

She asked him not to forsake her, "If you become attached to someone else, then I must die, but until then I could gather courage to work and make life valuable, if only I had you near me. I do not ask you to sacrifice anything - I would be very glad and cheerful and never annoy you."

Finally, she added a climactic flourish: "I suppose no woman ever before wrote such a letter as this - but I am not ashamed of it, for I am conscious in the light of reason and true refinement I am worthy of your respect and tenderness, whatever gross men or vulgar-minded women might think of me."

Some biographers have said that letter represented a pivotal moment in Eliot's life, with its mixture of vulnerability and strong assertion.

After the years of disjointed neediness, the iron was beginning to enter her soul and she was capable of that completely justified assertion of her own dignity. You might say that this moment was Eliot's agency moment, the moment when she stopped being blown about by her voids and weaknesses and began to live according to her own inner criteria, gradually developing a passionate and steady capacity to initiate action and drive her own life.

The letter didn't solve her problems. Spencer still rejected her. She remained insecure, especially about her writing. But her energies were roused. There was growing cohesion and, at times, amazing courage.

I've been thinking about moments of agency of this sort because often you see people who lack full agency. Sometimes you see lack of agency among the disadvantaged. Their lives can be so blown about by economic disruption, arbitrary bosses and general disorder that they lose faith in the idea that input leads to predictable output. You can offer job training programs, but they may not take full advantage because they don't have confidence they can control their own destinies.

Among the privileged, especially the privileged young, you see people who have been raised to be approval-seeking machines. They act active, busy and sleepless, but inside they often feel passive and not in control. Their lives are directed by other people's expectations, external criteria and definitions of success that don't actually fit them.

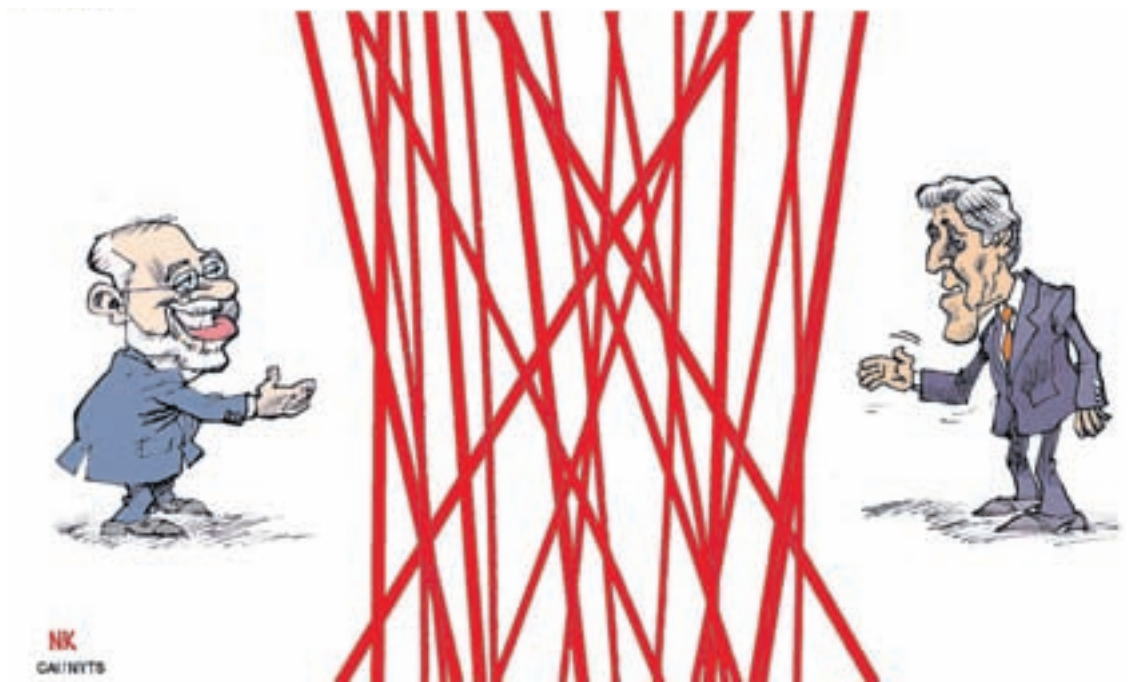
So many people are struggling for agency. They are searching for the solid criteria that will help them make their own judgments. They are hoping to light an inner fire that will fuel relentless action in the same direction.

I know an army officer who had a terrible commanding officer who only offered him negative feedback. He worked under this guy for 18 months, and whatever he did the feedback was the same. He had to come up with his own criteria to determine if he was doing well or poorly. He had to make decisions regardless of external affirmation or criticism. He discovered agency because external support was gone.

I once knew a guy who was battered about by people who should have supported him. For a time he took it, reacting painfully to each abuse. But finally he just got fed up. In a moment of indignation he lashed out. Every human soul is entitled to dignity and respect. He tasted agency in a flash of anger and an instant of revolt.

I once read about a guy whose childhood was a steady calamity. He was afraid, unable to control his mind and self. But he became a writer and discovered he was magnificent at it. Through the act of writing, he could investigate his fears and demystify them. He discovered agency by finding something he was good at and organizing his life around that gift.

Agency is not automatic. It has to be given birth to, with pushing and effort. It's not just the confidence and drive to act. It's having engraved inner criteria to guide action. The agency moment can happen at any age, or never. I guess that's when adulthood starts. □



Politicians, Teens and Birth Control



NICHOLAS KRISTOF
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Here's a story of utter irresponsibility: About one-third of American girls become pregnant as teenagers.

But it's not just a story of heedless girls and boys who don't take precautions. This is also a tale of national irresponsibility and political irresponsibility - of us as a country failing our kids by refusing to invest in comprehensive sex education and birth control because we, too, don't plan ahead.

I kind of understand how a teenage couple stuffed with hormones and enveloped in each other's arms could get carried away.

But I'm just bewildered that American politicians, stuffed with sanctimony and enveloped in self-righteousness, don't adequately invest at home or abroad in birth-control programs that would save the government money, chip away at poverty, reduce abortions and empower young people.

Neither Democrats nor Republicans seem particularly interested in these investments. The inflation-adjusted sum spent on Title X family planning in the United States has fallen by two-thirds since 1980.

A few depressing facts:

- U.S. teenagers become pregnant at a rate of about one a minute.

- Some 82 percent of births to teenagers in the U.S. are unplanned.

- American and European teenagers seem to be sexually active at roughly similar rates, although Americans may start a bit earlier. But the U.S. teenage birthrate is three times Spain's rate, five times France's, and 15 times Switzerland's.

- Young Americans show a lack of understanding of where babies come from. Among teenagers who unintentionally became pregnant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that the most cited reason for not using contraception was "I didn't think I could become pregnant." And 18 percent of young men somehow believed that having sex standing up helps prevent pregnancy, according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. Hello?

A teenager who has a baby often derails her own education and puts the child on a troubled trajectory as well. In Oklahoma last year, I met one family where the matriarch had a baby at 13, her daughter had a baby at 15, and that child, in turn, gave birth at 13. That's how poverty replicates.

Medicaid spends an average of \$12,770 for a birth. Yet we spend only \$8 per teenage girl on programs to avoid pregnancy. In financial terms, that's nuts. In human terms, it's a tragedy.

Internationally, we and other donor countries also underinvest in family planning in poor countries. Globally, 220 million women don't want to become pregnant but lack access to contraception.

Isabel Sawhill of the Brookings Institution has written an important new book, "Generation Unbound: Drifting Into Sex and Parenthood Without Marriage." She notes that most young single moms in America don't intend to become pregnant but drift into it fatalistically, partly because they rely solely on condoms or other less reliable forms of birth control. Condoms are 82 percent effective in preventing pregnancy in any one year, according to the CDC. But that means that after four years of relying only on condoms, most women will have become pregnant at least once.

So Sawhill advocates a move to what she calls "childbearing by design, not by default." That means providing long-acting reversible contraceptives, or LARCs, to at-risk girls and young women who want them. LARCs are IUDs, or implants that can remain in place for years, and the failure rate is negligible.

Teenage birthrates in America have already dropped by more than half since 1991. But Sawhill calculates that if LARCs became much more widespread, the proportion of children born outside marriage could drop by a quarter, and the proportion of children who are poor would drop sharply as well.

"By turning drifters into planners, we would not only help those women achieve their own goals but also create much stronger starts for their children," Sawhill writes.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recently urged doctors to recommend LARCs for sexually active teenagers. One obstacle is the initial cost - \$500 to \$1,000 - so that many young people can't afford them.

A study in St. Louis offered free birth control, including LARCs, to sexually active teenagers and found that pregnancy rates for them plunged by more than three-quarters. Abortions fell by a similar rate. That's what we need nationwide.

The Affordable Care Act provides free access to all forms of contraception, which helps. But many pediatricians aren't trained in inserting LARCs.

So we need more women's health clinics, yet, instead, some are being closed as casualties of abortion wars. Moreover, states and schools should embrace comprehensive sex education, teaching contraception, the benefits of delaying sex and, also, the responsibility of boys.

A starting point for the United States should be to rebuild Title X spending on family planning. Surely we can afford to spend as much in this area as we did back in 1980.

So, of course, let's ask teenagers to show responsibility toward sex. But let's demand the same of our politicians. □

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